THE INDEPENDENT

For six years we have been campaigning against the scandal of abuse in children's homes. Today, at last, there is a hope they will be safe

After years of scandals, inquiries and investigations into child abuse, hope at last emerges for the thousands of children trappedin children's homes without protection. Today, the Government will be urged to rethink its whole residential child care policy.

"We need vigorous rehabilitation of residential care, clear and consistent rules and modernisation of foster care. The Government, local authority managers and staff must be continually vigilant against abuse," says Sir William Utting in a 200-page report which

has taken nearly a year to produce. The report, which calls for a range of new measures to protect children at risk, comes more than six years after reports in The Independent and Independent on Sunday uncovered the North Wales child abuse scandal.

Following a long campaign by the two newspapers, the last Tory government set up a judicial tribunal of inquiry into abuse at the North Wales homes in the 1980s and the Utting inquiry into failings in the national system of residential care. The report to be published today by Sir William, a former head of social services inspections in England and should be subject to regulation which Wales, contains 20 major recommendations would involve detailed vetting; which are expected to set new standards in

Children are moved around too often because there are insufficient homes for them, and young people are still at risk from abuse.

EXCLUSIVE BY ROGER DOBSON

Some children's homes are still not regulated, some youngsters receive poor or no education, and homes are plagued by chronic staff

Sir William's report: • Urges the Government to legislate to regulate private foster care following the boom in these agencies over the past five years.

There has been concern that these agencies

Calls for children's homes with fewer

than four residents, which currently escape It presents a picture of a care system where regulation under the Children Act, to be runaway children were often returned to their brought into line with larger homes. There abusers, where young people who alleged are thought to be about 140 of these type of abuse were not believed, and where young- homes. Sir William says children in these be regulated;

> • Urges the Department of Health and the Welsh Office to set up a specialist group to develop a childcare strategy for residential care; Urges local authorities to secure more residential and foster care facilities. It says that too many children's homes have been closed leaving social services departments with too little choice when placing young people.

The report says residential homes are an important option for children in care but that the numbers have shrunk to stage where there is not enough choice. It says that the lack of choice leads to inappropriate placements, not suitable for the children concerned. As a consequence; children are moved too often, that they are not happy where they are placed, and in some homes vulnerable children are mixed with "fearsome" children, ex-

posing them to bullying and intimidation. The inquiry was set up at the same time as the North Wales tribunal into abuse at homes in Clwyd and Gwynedd, and the brief

was to look at the current safeguards to see if they are the most effective possible to protect children from abuse, and if those safeguards are being enforced.

The report says that disabled children and those with behavioural problems are the most at risk because they are less likely to be believed when they make allegations. Sir past scandals is that children who ran way were continually returned to the abusers care."

His report will be followed next year by the finding of Sir Ronald Waterhouse's judicial tribunal which has been investigating abuse at homes in North Wales. It too is likely to make recommendations about the future of residential care.

In recent years residential care, once the main provision for children, has been in decline. A series of inquiries and police prosecutions involving abuse in the Seventies and Eighties have added to the poor image of residential care and hastened its demise.

But there is an emerging view that properly supervised residential care, possibly with a national inspectorate overseeing standards and behaviour, might be the best form of provision for vulnerable children. Smaller homes, with more highly trained staff and part of a national strategy, with individual specialist homes, might, some believe, be the answer. Photograph: John Lawrence

INSIDE TODAY



Neve mind Swampy give me a fast car 5/YOUNG BRITAIN

Office bullies: how to get your own back CITY+

Aromatherapy:



men on the scent ofgood health

Yo-Yo Ma: the Cello is just childs play THE EYE

TODAY'S NEWS

Doctors urge law to help patients use cannabis

The British Medical Association urged the courts to show compassion when dealing with people charged with cannabis offences in the light of evidence of the drug's medical benefits.

The body said there was evidence that the drug could help muscle spasm and pain in multiple sclerosis patients, and nausea in patients undergoing chemothera-

Diana talks with Costner Diana, Princess of Wales held talks in the weeks before

she died with Kevin Costner about starring with him in a sequel to his hit film, The Bodyguard.

Costner received a second draft of a script just three ctays before Diana's facal accident. The script called for her to play a princess driven to hire a bodyguard because she thought the paparazzi was threatening her life. Column One, Page 2



TELEVISION The Eye, page 12 CROSSWORDS Page 32 and the Eye, page 9 VEATHER The Eye, page 10

Three generations wiped out in Egyptian massacre

HOLIDAY FIRMS MAY STAY

It was not clear last night how many of the British tourists in

Egypt had taken advantage of the offer by tour companies of

Keith Betton, a spokesman for the Association of British

Travel Agents, said that some people seemed happy to stay and

"Tour companies will want to assess matters over the next 48

hours before deciding whether to pull out completely," he said.

or is reported to be under curfew and visitors are advised to

avoid the area. In all parts of Egypt, visitors should be vigilant

Egypt's tourism minister put on a brave face. "Were you

able to prevent bombings at the World Trade Center or Okla-

homa City!" Mamdouh el-Beltagul asked an American reporter.

and respect any advice from the local security authorities."

The Foreign Office has issued a travel warning, saying: "Lux-

it was unlikely that all tours will be cancelled immediately.

Tourists of all nationalities flew home from Egypt yesterday after Monday's massacre which left 58 holidaymakers dead. Six

Britons died when gunmen opened fire. Esther Leach reports that

one family was all but wiped out.

The grief was raw in the Yorkshire village of Ripponden. The Turner family, Deborah Turner, 30, left their home under the protection of a friend and a police officer soon after she was told the news.

"I am absolutely distraught at losing all my family," she said. 'I'm all alone now.

Her air-hostess sister, Karina, Karina's five-year-old daughter, Shannnah, and her mother, Joan, were all shot

Deborah, a mature student at Salford University, Greater Manchester, where she is studysaid: "Twe lost my mother and my sister and my beautiful

"I'm absolutely distraught; I've lost everything." They had lived together in the village. The holiday had been arranged through Karina's firm.

John Wilson, whose daughter attended the same school as Shaunnah, said he did not know how Deborah would cope with

mediate flights home.

"Shaunnah was a bright, beautiful little girl who went to the same school as my daughter,"

Shaunnah was at St Mary's Church of England junior and infants school, near by at Mill Bank. It was the task of Danny Mollan, head teacher of the school, to tell his 87 pupils the

news at the end of the day. Children left the hillside

ents, some wiping away tears, trying to understand what had happened.

Then Mr Mollan made his own statement to the press. He said: "Shaunnah was a lovely, friendly, popular little girl who is going to be greatly missed. We would be grateful if the children who have been told of Shaumnah's sad death and the school could be given the opportunity to come to terms with the grief that we all feel at

Earlier in the day PC Mick Holroyd, who stood outside the Turner home protecting Deborah from unwanted questions by the press, said she was completely distraught. He added: "She will be for a very long time. You have just got to do the best you can at the end of the day."

Another neighbour, who refused to give his name because he was so clearly upset, said: "I've got a young daughter myself. This is worse than any road accident. If this is all about religion then you can keep it." Premonition of doom, page 8

MOUTH WATERING OYSTERS. (BUT NOT FROM CUR FOOD HALL.)



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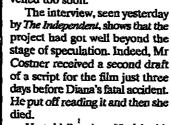
Diana was planning to become a movie star

Remember the "big surprise" that Diana, Princess of Wales, was promising to spring on the world just before her untimely death in Paris in August? We have all since thought it was about Dodi. But perhaps it was about Kevin.

Yesterday brought us this extraordinary revelation. In the final weeks of her life. Diana was holding secret falks with the actor Kevin Cosmer, about starring with him in a sequel to his Hollywood hit, Bodyguard. Mr Costner should get some award for keeping his mouth shut for so long. He has, however, finally spilled the beans in an interview with Premiere magazine in its January issue which hits the stands next month.

What it affords us is a tantalising glimpse of what might have been for Diana in a post-Windsor life. It also suggests a kind of morbid reverse symmetry with the life of Grace Kelly. She went from actress to

princess and, of course, was killed in a crash. Diana's crash intervened too soon.



He told Premiere: "I picked it up and the first 30 pages were totally her. It was dignified, sexy, smart, funny. And I couldn't finish. I stopped. It broke my heart". The secret of the first Body-

guard was providing its co-star. Whitney Houston, with a role so close to her real life that little acting talent was required. She played a famous singer who acquires a protector - Costner - and fails in love with him.

The Diana movie would have attempted the same magic. She was to have played a princess stranded in Hong Kong and driven to hire a bodyguard because of a conviction that her extraordinary fame - and the attentions of the paparazzi - was threatening her life. She too was to succumb to Costner. What title the film might have had, if not Bodyguard II, was not discussed. How about this, however: Hong Kong Holiday, after that old classic, Roman Holiday, starring Audrey Hepburn, a princess who goes incognito in Rome and hitches herself to a dashing journalist played by

> David Usborne, New York

Spruce bark beetle

In a report entitled "Danger beetle sneaks in" (11 October) about the discovery of spruce bark beetle in a shipment of wood at a timber yard in Woking, the quote from Mr Burgess, head of the Forestry Commission's plant health division, should have read: "This is a straight case of deception by an unscrupulous exporter in the Gzech Republic".

CONTENTS	aliana Aliana	ing salah s	ni Davidsida eta eta
Arts news Young Britain News Health Egypt Middle East News Politics World news	3 5 6 7 8 9 10 II	Theatre Fashion Features Obituaries Leader, Lette Comment Business Sport Crossword	18 19 20 21
European news Environment	13	Weather TV & Radio	The Eye, 10 The Eye, 11-12



C4 actor stays in character to play sleazy MP

who is swamped in a tide of sleaze and finds a former foreign correspondent running against him in the general election. Who would you tar with such

Step forward Robert Duncan, better known as Gus from Drop the Dead Donkey, the slimy, grasping, untrustworthy manager in Channel 4's satire on TV newsrooms.

Mr Duncan is to star in Mr White Goes to Westminster, a full-length satirical film for Channel 4's winter season based on the goings on in Tatton

to power of former foreign correspondent, Ben White. The tarnished MP, known here as Paul Madison, Mr Madison's formidable and haughty Tory wife is played by Celia Imrie. The film is written by Guy

It is a casting director's dilemma. You need some Jenkin, one of the writers of Drop the Dead Donone to play a slimy, grasping, untrustworthy Tory MP key and follows similar topical satires about escaping prisoners and slippery home secretaries.

Other highlights of Channel 4's winter line-up includes extended celebrations of the channel's 15th anniversary with some imaginative packaging of repeats. In Storm Over Four, the programme-makers and journalists involved in outrage stories about Channel 4 offerings such as the Red Light Zone and Brookside recount the media controversies created

In Fantasy Schedule, viewers will be able to vote for their favourite evening's programming from a in May. It covers the election and subsequent rise shortlist of different Brookside, Cutting Edge, Cheers, Friends, Drop the Dead Donkey and Father Ted episodes. Other nostalgia trips will include a live is opposed by white-suited former hack Bill Patterson. reprise of The Last Resort, the programme that was to blame for making Jonathan Ross famous.

- Paul McCann

Restaurateur loses case but keeps reputation

In the midst of legal defeat, restaurateur Michael Bloom yesterday claimed his name has been cleared of something unthinkable for a man in his position - deliberate ly stocking non-kosher meat.

Mr Bloom, pictured, who is now unemployed, ran the eponymous Bloom's Jewish restaurant... in the East End of London until a religious court removed his licence, or kashrut, as a kosher food provider. The London Beth Din - court of the chief rabbi - took the action after non-kosher meat ras found in the restaura fridge two years ago.

discovered that the meat had a challenge which yesterday failed, been left in the fridge by a delivery driver, a fact known by the Jewish court's judge, but ignored. satisfied that his public honour had losing £500,000 in four years. Accordingly Mr Bloom sought ju- been restored.



An aggrieved Mr Bloom later overturn the Beth Din's verdict, hear the delivery man's evidence. saddling him with a £70,000 legal

After the hearing, Mr Bloom, of Finchley, north London, said: "I am extremely disappointed in . the outcome of my application for indicial review; but the judge has recognised I clearly had grounds for a genuine sense of grievance.

Mr Justice Lightman, said he recognised Mr. Bloom's grievance. but said the Jewish court had been entitled not to disclose the delivery man's confession.

Mr Bloom, who had wanted a completely new hearing for his case before the Beth Din, can now take up an invitation from the original dicial review in the High Court to inal judge, Dayan Ehrentreu, to

Bloom's, once frequented by Princess Margaret and film stars, bill, his licence still revoked - but closed in February last year after

— Michael Streeter

BBC vacancies after reshuffle

The BBC is looking for new edi- of presenters such as John tors for the Today programme, the Humphrys, James Naughtie and Nine O'clock News, Newsnight Anna Ford released a letter of opand The World Tonight after kick-position to the plans. ing a host of editors up stairs to become 'super editors' in the lat- Birt, put the changes on hold and est reorganisation of the Corporation's management.

in September. At the time, a list

BBC Director-General, John negotiated with staff. A features 'super editor' post that would The plans have been watered have eaten into individual down since they were first unveiled programme budgets was scrapped.

Technology promises safer roads

New technology will dramatically cut road deaths and solve transport congestion problems, says a report out today. By 2020, pedestrians could even be equipped to photograph an attacker and relay the picture to the po-

Hi-tech systems will also lead to a "railway renaissance", said the report produced by the Institution of Civil Engineers on behalf of the Engineering Council. Entitled A Vision for Transport 2020, the report predicts and recommends:

Collision-avoidance systems for cars and speed-limiting electronic de-

◆ Closed-circuit TV cameras in each street to combat crime vices on cars

 Better transport links, including improved access to ports Improved walking and cycling facilities:

"There certainly is a mass of transport problems as we look towards the year 2020 and we need to act to stem these problems," said Professor Tony Ridley, chairman of the steering group which produced the report. "We could develop our society in a way that is less dependent on motorised transport. We have the techniques and technologies."



Fibre blocks bowel cancer gene

Scientists at the Cancer Research Campaign have shed more light on how fibre may help prevent bowel cancer, it was revealed yesterday.

Experts have believed for some time that fibre helps prevent cancer by speeding up the transit of natural waste products through the body. This new research, carried out with colleagues in America, demonstrates at cell level how a naturally-produced substance derived from fibre can block the activity of a cancer causing gene. This, they believe, has significant implications in the prevention and treatment of the disease, the second biggest killer cancer which currently claims the lives of 18,000 people in the UK each year and hundreds of thousands world wide.

Teams from Bristol University and the Burhan Institute in California have found that a substance called butyrate, produced when fibre is broken down, can halt the activity of a gene that causes bowel tumours to

ENVIRONMENT

Asbestos not as risky as believed

A new study into the use of asbestos materials and man-made mineral fi-Gresia homes shows there is little risk to health if managed and treated correctly. The study, Fibrous Materials in the Environment, looked at the risks from environmental exposure to asbestos and man-made mineral fibres at home. It was commissioned by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions.

The report, published yesterday, found that everyone is exposed to low background levels of asbestos and man-made mineral fibres in the environment without an apparent risk to health; and that exposure to asbestos fibres in homes and other buildings where asbestos materials are present and in good condition is not normally significantly different to that from background exposure and is therefore not a cause for concern.

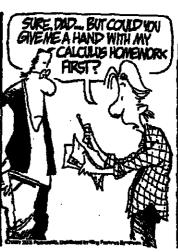
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IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

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Which musical instrument is best for your child? EDUCATION+

High kicks and class in a women's jail

First Night: Chicago Adelphi Theatre, London Review by David Lister

The obituaries for the West End musical have been premature. Last night saw the return of the feelgood show, complete with a great score, first class performances and ticket touts doing a brisk trade outside. It was almost like old

Perhaps, as the showbiz cliche has it, timing is everything. Chicago is not a new show. It actually first appeared in 1975, but was quickly overshadowed by A Chorus Line, and made few waves. But now, after a year which has seen a lack of blockbuster musicals and a need for a feelgood factor, this revival helped by a massive marketing campaign, has come just at the right mo-

Some of the publicity would leave you wondering if this was a pleasant comedy musical (it is) or a satirical, academic role and her lament with Lemtreatise on Chicago mob life in the twenties, women's prisons and the O.J. Simpson trial. (it isn't). Mind you, in the court scene when one of the murderesses was on trial and seduced the jury into finding her not guilty as cheerleaders with pom poms sang in delight, one did have fleeting memories

The musical, by Fred Ebb and John Kander, who also composed Cabaret, is set in a Henshall on his knee mouthing women's prison, looking rather more like a night club, and is about a group of murderesses/adulteresses who get song and dance bookings outside as their criminal notoriety rises. After garnering a clutch of

Tony awards on Broadway, there were fears that the British version, led by the epitome of suburban Englishness. Ruthie Henshall, could come unstuck.

Such fears were unfounded. Miss Henshall as killer turned singer Roxie Hart is a revelation, cool and sexy with a beautiful voice matched by assured comic timing. "I started fooling around," she confides to the audience. "Then I started screwing around, which is fooling around without dinner." Her rival in the show is played by Ute Lemper, internationally famous for her smoky renditions of Kurt Weill. As she and Henshall trade high kicks with the rest of the cast, the stage a mass of legs and cleavage, this is more like a night at the Folies Bergeres than a show ostensibly set in a

Meg Johnson, who plays the matron Mama, may not be well enough known to get her name above the titles, but she brings an eyecatching suavete to the per for a golden age when there was Class was one of the evening's showstoppers.

There was an ovation too for Henry Goodman, a wonderful piece of casting as Mr fix-it lawyer Billy Flynn — "I don't want to blow my own born but if Jesus had lived in Chicago and had \$5,000, things would have turned out very differently." The scene where he runs a press conference with the words as he sings them ventriloquist style, is a comic highlight, though why people around me murmured the name Max Clifford I can't

imagine. There is one major caveat



Just for kicks: Ute Lemper plays Ruthie Henshall's rival

For some reason the orchestra than half of the space, leaving scope of a full stage. the action in front of it look-

on a highly enjoyable night out. of a musical. That leaves one Archer, Sir Peter Hall, Marie among the London in-crowd is on the stage, taking up more been even better given the

But this did not seem to more like a concert rendition including Lord and Lady cast and ticket touts.

Photograph: Geraint Lewis

thinking the show could have Helvin and Max Bygraves. From the Adelphi they moved on to a themed party at a studio in Kings Cross, sharing the ing cramped and occasionally bother the celebrity audience, feelgood factor with audience,

Awards reflect fashion for more reasoned rhyme

The prestigious Paul Hamlyn Awards for Artists have been presented to five poets. David Lister suggests that the five chosen represent a move away from attempts to make poetry young and trendy.

Their styles range from freeform to highly formal sonnets. Their ages range up to 70. Five poets last night received the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Awards For Artists worth £15,000 each.

The choice of the five signalled a move away from the deliberate trendy marketing of poetry in recent years through projects such as Young Generation Poets, and awkward attempts to make youthful poets part of the fashion scene.

The five chosen are established and highly-regarded poets, but in some cases writers who have not been in the limelight. One, Elizabeth Jennings, 70, lives in a B&B in Oxford.

The winning poets are: John Agard, Roy Fisher, Kathleen Jamie, Elizabeth Jennings and

Barry MacSweeney.
Judith Palmer, literature ofthe Poetry Society, commented: among older poets that they have had the worst of all possible worlds. They were writing Poets they were unable to participate in the new rock n roll.

"It's great to have a list of winners that includes people who don't hang out, aren't earning their living from book reviews, but ply their craft - and get very depressed about it." John Agard, 48, born in

Guyana has been described as an outstanding luminary of same time as a survey by the

DAILY POEM

Get Down Ye Angels

by John Agard

Get down ye angels from the heights. Try a few of earth's numinous delights: the orginstic rustling of the grass.
The wind's brazen feather tickling your arse.

Exchange your robe even for a day with the raiment of one made of clay.

Lay down your harp and dig these pipes I play.

III put my lips to the weeping reeds till temptation thrills the heart of every hill and the very stones begin the dance of leaves as if stones had gained a fluttering will.

Welcome ye cherubs to the carnal hubbub. Take a break from heaven's eternal monotone. Inhabit the splendid risk of flesh and bone.

Our Daily Poems until next Tuesday will feature the recipients of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Awards for Artists, worth £15,000 each, which this year have been given to poets. The winners, announced yesterday from a shortlist of 20 after 340 eligible entries, are John Agard, Roy Fisher, Kathleen Jamie, Elizabeth Jennings and Barry MacSweeney. Get Down Ye Angels comes from John Agard's new collection, From the Devil's Pulpit (Bloodaxe, £7.95)

the exploding galaxy of West Indian-British troubadors". Roy Fisher, 67, writes poetry most often associated with the postficer at the South Bank Centre industrial landscape of the Mid-and a member of the board of lands. Kathleen Jamie, 35, from Scotland, was one of the New "There has been a feeling Generation Poets, and often writes in Scottish dialect. Elizabeth Jennings, 70, writes sonnets and other verse striving to before poetry was fashionable. come to terms with losses. Bar-Too old to be Young Generation ry MacSweeney, 49, from Newcastle, was an investigative crime reporter and writes poetry described as "unsparing of allusions, and bitter and comic in its self-appraisal."

Poets had to apply to be considered for the awards and 342 did so - a number that may reflect the need for funds as

much as for fame. For the awards come at the Paul Hamlyn Foundation of poets' incomes. It shows that the pre-tax income of a successful. published poet in the UK or Ireland with an average age of 48, is about £12,500 a year - well below the national earnings

The survey is based on the earnings of these 342 poets. It found that average annual earnings range from £7500 in the North-west to £14,500 in the Midlands and Scotland. Poets in London earned on average £12,358.

The poet Adrian Mitchell who was one of the judges of the award, commented: "We commemorate our poets in Westminster Abbey when they're good and dead. Meanwhile their successors are struggling - against neglect, illness and poverty, to survive."



It's hard to swim when you'ye for heer running for three hours.

On average, a stag hunt lasts 3 hours and covers around 12 miles.

When the stag is finally caught by the hounds it is at the point of total exhaustion.

Scientific analysis of blood samples taken from hunted stags reveals a litany of suffering.

In the early stages of the chase, glycogen and blood sugar levels fall sharply.

As the hunt progresses, fatty acids in the blood rise, indicating high physiological stress levels.

Red pigment in blood plasma increases, caused by ruptured blood cells.

In the later stages of the hunt, high levels of muscle enzymes appear in the blood, indicating life-threatening muscle damage.

Despite its name, stag hunting is not confined to the male of the species.

Hinds are hunted too, sometimes when they are pregnant or with a calf at heel.

Stag or hind, the end is the same. A free wild animal is hunted to death.

The RSPCA has long campaigned against all hunting with dogs.

In areas where deer need culling it is more efficient and more humane for them to be shot by a marksman.

We believe that the hunting of wild animals is cruel and unacceptable in a civilised society.

And the vast majority of the people in this country agree with us.

A Private Member's Bill seeking to ban hunting with dogs comes before Parliament on November 28th.

A MORI poll taken in October 1997 shows that 73% of people support the Bill. We want to turn that overwhelming weight of public opinion into legislation.

The 28th is a Friday when many MPs will be back in

their constituencies.

We want you to persuade them to stay in the House and vote to end this cruel 'sport' once and for all.

You can write to your MP direct at the House of Commons, or call the RSPCA on 01403 223284 (9-5 weekdays) and we'll send you a campaign pack.

And if you need further motivation, look again at the stag in the picture.

Look him in the eye.

And tell him you can't be bothered.

* 5.00

September 1

Branch



Ban hunting with dogs.



 $r_{\rm s}$

Forget about Swampy. All they want is their own car

You think they are the eco-warrior generation, with Swampy as their hero. You think they plan to save the planet with their politics. In fact young Britons idolise the

The notion of a youth movement actively involved in

environmental issues is stripped away in 2020 Vision, a survey of 10,000 young people aged between 12-25. exclusively previewed by

The Independent every day this week.

Tomorrow's people think about things close to home. They are worried about unemployment and about crime, while global warming and the disintegration of the ozone layer don't figure high on their agenda.

Even though we are bornbarded with images of a nation of young green activists, such as Swampy or Animal, only 14 per cent believe pollution is an urgent problem in Britain, ranking it well below issues like drugs, poverty, and terrorism.

Isobel Williams, 13, knows exactly what this means. She lives in a pleasant green-belt town in the Wirral and attends a nearby grammar school.

Although her parents recycle much of their household rubbish and grow vegetables on the family allotment, Isobel says she is detached from the environment debate because other issues are more pressing.

"I am interested in the enthe health service or home-Dessness," she says.

who is actively involved in the green movement. None of my on their lives. friends are eco-warriors or go on demonstrations. I actually found that whole Swampy thing very alienating."

Jo Gardiner, co-ordinator of way ahead of the second most about it."

BY NICOLE VEASH AND JACK O'SULLIVAN

2020 Vision for the Industrial Society agrees, saying although the young are environmentally cent, Among non-car owners, 40 aware, they are not doing anything about it. ·

The environment is not top of their list and it's definitely below either health or education. Most people know about the environment and are aware about the issues ... it's just that they don't take responsibility for it themselves. I suppose they are passively concerned,"

So ecological destruction played out in a rain forest thousands of miles away from home, is just too far away to think

TELL US YOUR VIEW

The Independent welcomes comment or responses to the articles on this page from readers aged between 12 and 25. Please write to Nicole Veash at The Independent, I Canada Square, Ca-nary Wharf, London El4 5DL; by fax on 0171 293 2451; or e-mail to n.veash@independent.co.uk. We will publish a selection of views later in the week. If you have missed any of our survey details, they are on our http://www.independent.co.uk

2020 Vision is co-ordinated by the industrial Society. The Action Agenda along with full results of the research will be launched next

about. With this in mind, it is no vironment but before that I'm surprise to find that the picture worried about other things, like emerging from the research is of a generation obsessed with having their own cars - content "I don't really know anybody to ignore environmental impact which has no immediate affect

valued most, 68 per cent of those who own a vehicle put

valued item, a stereo system, which garnered only 24 per per cent would like to own one over and above anything else. The survey revealed that a staggering one-third of all 19 year olds own their own cars.

Jill Patton, 18, from Ballywater, Northern Ireland, says having a car is often something to shout about

Having a car is a prestige thing," she says, "Saving a whale is not, while clearing canals is just punishment."

Even though she lives on a farm, Jill says the jargon surrounding the environment is enough to make anyone switch off. "Words like chlorofluorocarbons just turn people off because they are too academic and make it all sound very distant from our daily lives."

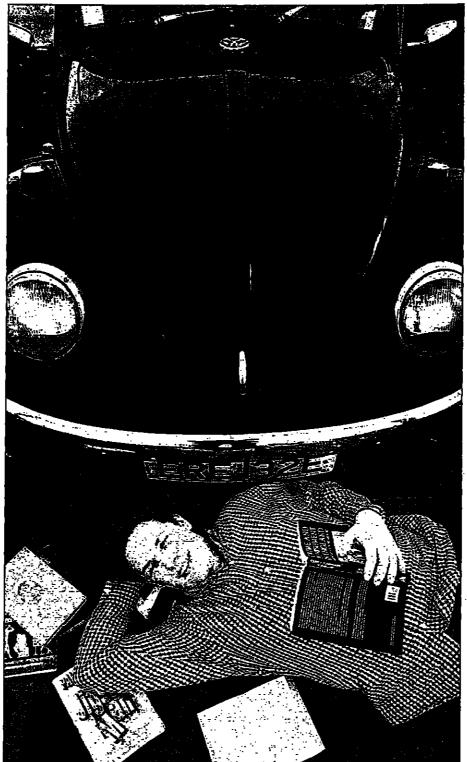
The environment is just not trendy enough for much of young Britain. They think it is still the domain of middleaged, middle-class ex-hippies and rather strange tunnelling people, like Swampy.

And the research shows not only are they not really bothered about the environment, they actually haven't got the time or the money to dig themselves under Manchester Airport, as 24year-old Tracey Cook, from Bradford, explains.

"If you've got to sign on every other Thursday, hanging around in a tree house is just not going to work. We are too busy getting through day to day life.

Being involved in the environment doesn't give you any security or finance and that's why most people I know have little or nothing to do with the whole debate," she says.

"But the real problem is When asked which item they older people want us to be responsible, so they can shake off their own responsibilities. So their car at the top of the list, now no one is doing anything



Top gear: Chris Stewartsmith and his beloved VW

Life in the fun lane begins with your own set of wheels

Chris Stewartsmith, 19, from Sevenoaks, Kent, is a first year student at Keele University, reading Psychology and **History of Crime**

I love Beetles. They are my life. I think Beetles are brilliant because they're cheap, they're great fun to drive and people turn their heads when they see

I get a lot of attention with mine from both young people who are into VWs and older people who used to own one and want to tell you about it. And it feels good to be noticed when you know that your car

Cars are very important to young people. They give you freedom and make you upwardly mobile and independent. Having one means you don't have to rely on your parents for lifts anymore. And owning one at my age secures your passage to manhood.

Where I live public transport is just inconvenient. Buses and trains are unreliable and slow, and frankly, I find them

Having a car means that you can be much more spontaneous, and go where you

want, when you want. When there's not much going on, baving a car can provide you with something to do. Cars for young people aren't just a means to an end - they are a form of leisure in them-

and we just like to go driving. Photograph: Newsteam Driving is really exciting and is a great way of breaking the te-

I am concerned about the environment to an extent but I've never really associated my love of cars with that. I recycle my rubbish and so do all my mates, but the environment isn't my main topic of conver-

Private car owners like us shouldn't be accused of destroying the environment, because it's the industrial lorries that use the motorways the most. If all of that kind of transport haulage was switched to rail then there wouldn't be any need to widen the motorways.

I am concerned about the hole in the ozone layer. If someone asks me if I am conis looking good. It is such a cerned then I say yes, but, to be honest, it doesn't occupy my mind much. I did think that people like Swampy and his crew were pretty amusing when I first saw them in the papers. I couldn't believe that any one would go to those lengths rather than write a letter like

But after going on a student march against university tuition fees I realised that the only way that you can get people to notice you is by taking action. Still, I do think that in general Swampy goes a bit too far.

I don't think that it is necessarily hypocritical to be fond of cars and worry about environmental issues. Besides, I think of what I do as a form of

recycling. Some people get rid of their car after five years and buy a brand new one. I buy old cars and then restore them. So All of my mates have cars really I help to cut down on

Education hits the right note

Natalie Clein, 20, was BBC Young Musician of the Year in 1994. She was educated at a girls' secondary school

in Dorset and at the Royal

College of Music. "It is important to me that I had a normal, broad education. I did eight GCSEs and sports like everyone else whereas they're down to four or five at some special music schools.

oped in school - in reading. drama and art - all keep me sane now that I'm in Vienna playing the cello. I did A-level Classics and English, so, whichever city I'm in, I want to see Greek vases or go to

when you're 18. I hope that uations I find myself in."



"The interests I devel- one day, when I have some time, I will be able to go to history of art.

"My only criticism of school is that I wish I had learned more life skills, like knowing how to deal with managers. I wish school had "School gave me a love of taught me better how to be these subjects and a belief that strong and stand up for myeducation doesn't just stop self in some of the difficult sit-

Eco-warriors take it too far

THE TV PRESENTER: Cat Deeley presents MTV's Hit Show and is a model at

"I think people should try and preserve the environment but there really is a problem with the transport system. It's such a nightmare getting anywhere on the Tube and that's why so many young people have cars.
The older generation are definitely more stuck in their ways when it comes to pollution. They think we are going tesio something about the envincement because we have been taught about it at school. I learnt quite a lot at school. I knew about the destruction of the ozone layer and global warming, so you could say I'm fairly environmentally aware... I think ecowarriors probably take it all



and there is no way my Mum would like me associated with people in those clothes!

Sometimes there is no point being noisy about issues like the environment because you have got to put your point across intellectually. People like Swampy believe in what they are doing, which is good, but I don't think they are goa tar too far. It puts people off ing about it in the right way."

Schools failing to teach about the real world

Young Britons are a generation obsessed with education - its inadequacies and its possibilities for helping them get on in life. But the overwhelming view is one of disappointment -63 per cent believe that schools do not prepare people for life in the real world, a figure that rises with age.

Francesca Jacobi, 25, from Richmond in Surrey is typical of those who look back with a I mean there are things like gensense that education let them down. She is unemployed having graduating from Sussex University two years ago in I mean, Shakespeare! It does-Applied Psychology. "I think school just taught me to go and get a good degree, but didn't say anything beyond that," she says.

University did not do much more in setting her up for the working world. "At university I didn't know where to start in terms of planning a career. jority (55 per cent) blamed And I didn't get much help. I just had no idea what I wanted to do. I went to teach English in the Czech Republic when I got my degree. But when I re- alarm ministers who are hoping alised, after coming back, that that the numbers in tertiary ed-I didn't want to teach. I felt com- ucation will continue to rise. pletely stranded."

Raekha Parsad, 24, an English graduate, agrees. "At least at the comprehensive I went to enthusiastic teacher. Gordon I had to learn how to compete Brown, the Chancellor, under with hundreds of other kids from all sorts of backgrounds. That was a good preparation for life. At university we were cocooned. When I finished I felt that I was totally lacking in skills," Ms Parsad is now a re-

porter on the Big Issue. Educational disillusionment is much higher among those

from poorer backgrounds than among the university-attending middle classes. Only a quarter of those with no formal qualifications felt that school had met their expectations, compared with two-thirds of those who

More than four out of five

had a degree.

young people think vocational training should start at school. As one 17-year-old unqualified man from Devon on work training told the 2020 study: "You go to school for 11 or 12 years of your life and they feed your brain full of all this shit, which, when you get into a job, you think, 'what's the point in that?' eral maths, but after that you start going into RE and environmental studies, even English. n't seem relevant. I've forgotten everything that I learned at school. They're teaching the wrong stuff."

There is overwhelming agreement (90 per cent) that learning does not stop when you leave school, although the mapoverty for young people not going on to further education. As tuition fees are introduced for students, this figure may

Young people regard class sizes to be less important than having an understanding and pressure to raise education spending, will, however, be heartened by one result: up-todate books and resources are a lower priority than good teaching facilities and a wide range of subjects. Good sports facilities generally rank very low, as less important than flexible opIssued by Midland Bank ptc. Member HSBC Group

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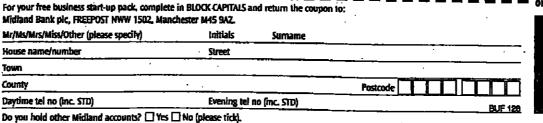
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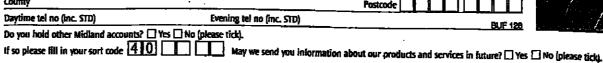
Not everyone knows enough about business practice to get their fantastic idea up and running, so Midland has put together a start-up pack which makes setting up on your own a lot less daunting. It includes a 30 minute video featuring people who successfully launched their own businesses and a booklet which teaches you the basics - like writing your business proposal and calculating your finances. There's also a software package for your PC which helps you work out forecasts and projections.

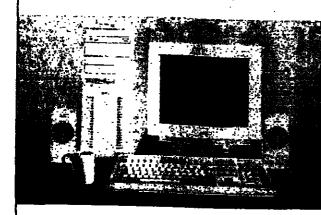




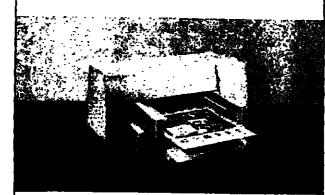


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Camelot to give extra £1bn to good causes

its National Lottery licence im-

THE INDEPENDENT WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 1997

Ireland

waits on

rape case

The Irish cabinet yesterday debated the country's renewed

abortion nightmare amid expectations that the Dublin High Court may be asked to ap-

prove a termination for a pregnant rape victim aged 13. The latest controversy resembles the 1992 "X" case when a court banned a pregnant 14-year-old from travelling abroad to have an abortion. That restriction was later lifted. The present girl's family are travellers living in a dilapidated caravan in west Dublin without running water. She was raped while babysitting for friends of her parents 12 weeks ago and is now with a foster family. The case is expected to come before the High Court once psychiatric reports on the

girl's state of health are prepared. The health authority

needs legal direction before it

can initiate or fund an abortion. Two referendums in 1992

guaranteed women's rights to

extra £1bn to good causes by to good causes had fallen, but

sults. Then, there was a public Russell said the new midweek said. "We ... look forward to the recognising the need for suitable ficials were at pains to point out proved yesterday when it anoutcry when it emerged that draw had resulted in a sales inforthcoming National Lottery
remuneration for the operator.

yesterday that Offict, the lottery
remuneration for the operator. nounced plans to hand over an Camelot's profits and payments crease of 17.2 per cent. "It is against this background its directors' had been given of strong performance that we erate in a constructive part- to increase its payments to operator.

and donations to good caus- calls to return the money but- good causes to £10bn by the end to be published within weeks, es of £696m - up 22 per cent - agreed instead to make secret of our licence period provided the lottery organiser faced none donations to charity last month. there are no substantial changes

Announcing half-yearly bonuses of up to 90 per cent of are able to revise our original profits of £35m - up 10 per cent their salaries. They resisted forecast of £9bn raised for the

nership with the Government." The Bill, which is expected

will allow us to continue to op- mer, Labour pressed Camelot good causes by the amount announced yesterday by Sir George. The fact that it has pubwill attempt to define Labour's lichy committed itself to the paid an interim dividend of commitment to a "not for prof- figure will do its chances no £20m.

Camelot's chances of retaining greeted its last half-yearly re-Reform Bill in the hope that it At talks during the sum-

ment, will choose the next Camelot's shareholders, GTech, Racal, De La Rue, Cadbury Schweppes and ICL were

- Steve Boggan

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The fiscus have no many

Anne Muses, Sive

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School turns to car pools to beat pollution

travel abroad and obtain abortion information. A third. London schools are being proposing legal abortion where forced to fill their cars with oththe life of the mother was at er pupils in order to bring their

stake, failed to win approval. As vehicles to the school gates. a result the abortion law re-The scheme was born of an mains the 1983 amendment givexperiment in north London. ing the mother and unborn Royal School, a fee-paying prichild equal rights to life, a formary school, had applied to mula that may lead the High Camden council to increase its Court to block a termination. roll from 120 to 153 in 1995. --- Alan Murdoch, Dublin However, councillors have

schools. Mark Gilks, the council's director of environment, said that some schools had five times the level of expected pollution outside their gates.

Councillors would only accept the increase if the number of cars coming into school was cut by 30 per cent over three years. Parents worked with the The results have exceeded only does it "broaden the rush come to school by car."

to pick up several children.

"Home post codes of stu-

dents identified clusters of ad- Councillors will vote today on dresses. The carrying capacity of the car was not considered because we think that smaller cars are more environmentally friendly," said a spokesman for the council.

Parents with children in some become concerned of worsen- school to come up with school the council's expectations. In hour", but levels have doubled ing pollution outside many runs that would enable one car just 12 months, the level of traf- in the past 20 years. The extra fic into the school has been reduced by 23 per cent. a package of radical measures

scheme to other north London

cars now add up to 20 per cent to the peak-time traffic.

Other schools in the area welcomed the initiatives. Mrs including extending the Pam Fitzpatrick, a headmistress in Camden, said: "I am in primary and secondary schools. favour of cutting back on car School traffic has been long use. We have about 330 pupils recognised as a problem. Not here and well over 50 per cent

'Blood-stained' man sought in hunt for killer of Kate, 14

A man, with a possibly blood-stained shirt, was seen running from the area where a 14-year-old Devon girl had her throat slit, it first break-through in the murder hunt launched after Kate Bushell's body was found by her father in a field last Saturday.

Kate, who had been taking a dog for a walk, was found 300 yards from her home on the edge of Exeter in Devon. Her throat had been cut in what the police said was a planned attack.

Detective Superintendent Mike Stephens told a news conference yesterday that a man was seen between 7.30pm and 7.50pm on Saturday running from fields in the area where Kate's body was found. The man, who ran into a housing estate, was about 5ft 11in, aged between 30 and 35 and of medium build. He had short brown hair, a moustache and was wearing a blue sweatshirt, which the police said had staining on the front that could have been blood. His jeans and trainers were muddy.

The detective also announced that a businessman had offered a £20,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the killer. - Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent

Lottery brings London £bns

Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, vesterday enthused about the National Lottery. It was helping making London "not just a world city but the world city for the new millennium", he said.

Figures produced by the business campaign group London First suggest that Mr Smith's claim is not so exaggerated. Since March 1997, the group has identified an additional £1bn of new investment in the cultural, heritage and leisure industries, increasing the total to £5.6bn. The lottery alone is the trigger for more than £2.6bn of investment in London. Beyond this sector, some £600m is being spent on an extra 10,000 hotel beds, £13bn is likely to go into transport projects by 2004 and billions are going into commercial and residential projects from Paddington in the west to Canary Wharf phase 2 in the east.

However, the survey highlights concerns over skill shortages, underfunding of London Underground, and a fear that some developments could be left unfinished because work has begun before all the money is secured. Telco, the east London community organisation, said training was woefully inadequate. "We anticipate east London will need 30,000 construction workers to cope with the boom but the local TEC is funding only 400 places a year," a spokesperson said.

- Stephen Goodwin, Heritage Correspondent

Barclays' Christmas strike

Staff at Barclays Bank are to strike on Christmas Eve as part of their six-month old dispute over the imposition of a performance-related pay system. The Banking Insurance and Finance Union and UNIFI, the Barclays staff union, said they expected 20,000 workers to walk out causing "absolute chaos" although management claimed that only 2,000 joined the last stoppage. Both unions said the Christmas strike would lead to a total breakdown of the Barclaycard authorisation service.

Employees' leaders said staff were "increasingly frustrated" over Barclays' refusal to enter fresh talks and by it replacing a 2.5 per cent Christmas bonus with a performance-related sum payable in April. A Barclays spokeswoman said the bank was disappointed the unions had decided to strike for a fourth day, given the "low level" of support for previous stoppages.

- Barrie Clement, Labour Editor



7/HEALTH NEWS

THE INDEPENDENT WEDNESDAY

Cannabis plea by doctors may not save this MS sufferer from going to prison

Elizabeth Ivol, a multiple scierosis sufferer, is awaiting sentence after being found guilty of possessing cannabis. Yesterday's move by the BMA to encourage courts to show compassion in such cases may have come too late to help her, reports Jeremy Laurance. Health Editor.

It is seven years since Elizabeth Ivol was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and in that time she has tried every treatment. orthodox and unorthodox. The only one that has brought her relief is cannabis. Now that may be denied her, 100.

On 2 December she is due to be sentenced by the Sherrif's court in South Ronaldsay, Orkney, where she lives with two dogs, after being found guilty of growing 27 cannabis plants on the windowsills of her house. She has been warned to expect a jail term, given the number of plants.

ciation is supporting patients such as Ms Ivol in calling for a change in the law to allow derivatives of cannabis to be more widely prescribed and research on cannabinoid treatments to go ahead.

Dr Vivienne Nathanson, of cannabis. But we do believe cannabinoids are helpful to justify a change in the law. Until aware of the medicinal uses of the drug and use their compassion, sympathy and understanding when dealing with of her body without feeling. patients found in possession."



The British Medical Asso- Numbing down: Elizabeth Ivol says she was 'amazed at the difference' cannabis made to the pain from her multiple sclerosis

walks with two sticks, last September. A van was sent later to enough to ease the pain in my remove the plants. She said: "I have tried all the diets, inhead of policy, said: "We are cluding the crackpot ones, and not calling for the legalisation all the drugs. I had horrible side effects after one course of inthere is medical evidence that jections. Three years ago I was given some cannabis for Christmas. I was so amazed at then, the courts should be the difference it made I thought this had to be it."

The disease has caused numbness which has left most She said: "When I smoked it I but I was wrong."

Six police officers raided the felt the ground under my feet home of Ms Ivol, 50, who for the first time in years. I only smoke a miniscule amount spine and restore the feeling from my bladder so I know when to go to the toilet."

> "You cannot believe the difference it has made to my life. It was either cannabis or suicide. I didn't keep the plants secret, my neighbours watered them for me, and I only had so many because I thought some might die. I didn't think the court case would come to anything, seeing my circumstances,

Board of Science, Therapeutic Uses of Cannabis, published yesterday says there is evidence the drug can help muscle spasm and pain in multiple sclerosis patients, nausea in patients undergoing chemotherapy for cancer, and

chronic pain in other patients. There are also some reports of benefits in epilepsy, glaucoma (the build up of pressure in the eye), asthma, high blood pressure and the weight loss associated with Aids.

A report by the BMA's gy at the University of Newcastle and chief author of the report said the priorities for research should be multiple sclerosis and chronic pain. "The present treatments are unsatisfactory, new drugs are badly needed and preliminary evidence suggests cannabis derivatives might be effective."

> The report did not advocate use of the whole cannabis plant which could be as damaging as tobacco, she said. It. was essential to extract the constituents of cannabis that conway that morphine had been

purified from opium, in order to establish which were beneficial. "If you visit any mental hospital you will find young patients who have gone crazy from smoking strong cannabis. Unpleasant mood effects are common in patients with illnesses who are using it."

The Multiple Sclerosis Society said some patients had experienced benefits from cannabis but others had suffered unpleasant side effects. including loss of balance. It called for proper clinical trials Heather Ashton, professor ferred benefit, in the same to establish whether cannabis

URGENT Save the Children Y Somalia Appeal

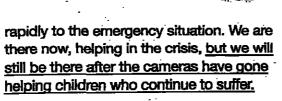
Torrential rains are causing catastrophic flooding in the main agricultural areas of southern Somalia. Already 43 villages are under water, 1,000 people have died and 200,000 people are in need of immediate emergency assistance or evacuation.

The situation is desperate. Thousands of children and their families are stranded on small areas of high ground. Trapped without food or clean water, severe hunger and diseases such as malaria and diarrhoea are proving a serious threat.

"The floods have ruined everything. Crops and food stocks have been totally destroyed, homes demolished and the infrastructure wiped out." Anne Mulcahy, Save the Children Somalia Programme Director.

Worse is still to come. As the heavy rains persist the water levels continue to rise, the flooding gets worse and thousands more families are finding themselves in danger.

The immediate needs are for shelter, food, medical assistance and safe water. Save the Children has been working in the area since 1992 and has been able to respond



We desperately need your help now so that we can continue to provide relief supplies such as plastic sheeting, blankets, water containers and chlorine for water purification.

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Money targeted at hospitals with worst waiting lists

Three Thames hospitals with the longest delays in treatment will be the first to be targeted under a Government drive to cut waiting lists.

eremy Laurance says that as more patients join the queues Labour's pledge to reduce them grows more remote.

Hospital waiting lists rose to a record 1,207,500 in England at the end of September, and they are likely to get worse before they get better, Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, said yesterday.

Using a favourite metaphor. he compared them to a supertanker that had been set in motion by the Tories and would take time to stop and turn round. "We inherited the highest waiting lists ever in the history of the NHS. Our commitment to cut them will be delivered. It will take time, hard work and patience but we will get there.'

A sign of the Government's growing anxiety as it sees one of its key manifesto pledges receding - to cut NHS waiting lists by 100,000 - came with yesterday's announcement of a "waitefforts to bring hospitals with the worst records into line.

Stephen Day, regional director of the NHS in the West Midlands, is to chair a waitinglist action team backed by eight regional task forces. Mr Dobwaiting lists in his own region but it emerged that it had takbeen given £5m to pilot ways of cutting the lists nationally but from health authorities' own

Mr Dobson confirmed that 100,000 from the waiting lists funds as the rest.

applied to the total at the time of the election in May. He said the lists had risen by 50,000 since, leaving the Government facing a new target of a 150,000 cut in the numbers to realise its

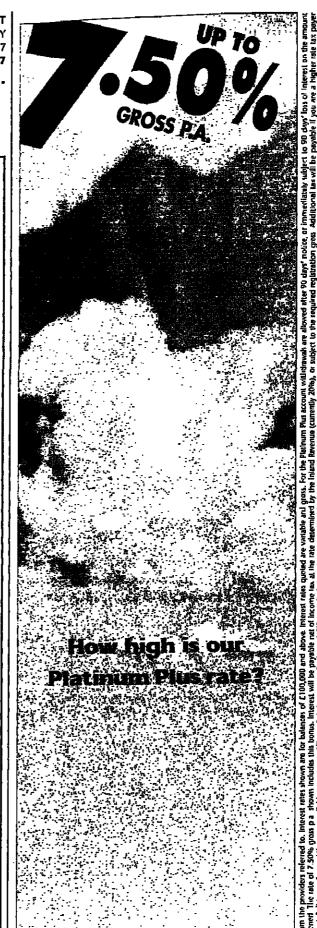
A start would be made by clearing the 818 patients who have waited over 18 months, in breach of the Patient's Charter standards, by the end of next March, Mr Dobson said.

"It is simply unacceptable that 800 people have waited over 18 months for treatment. No one should wait more than 18 months for treatment and by the end of the winter no one will," he said.

The number of people waiting more than 18 months more than doubled in the three months to September and three London hospitals account for more than half of them. Mr Dobson named them as King's Healthcare NHS Trust in south London, Mount Vernon and Watford NHS trust in Middlesex and Hertfordshire and Hammersmith NHS trust in west London. He said the health authorities covering the three trusts had already received a total of £9.4m. "They have had targeted financial help. Now they will get targeted practical help."

More gloom came from the ing-list buster" who will oversee NHS Confederation yesterday which said a survey showed more than half of health authorities expected to end the year in debt, despite the extra £300m cash injection announced last month.

The British Medical Assoson said Mr Day had been se- ciation said it was futile to aslected for his success in cutting sume waiting lists could be reduced "when NHS trusts have already been squeezed dry and en £30m to do it. The team has most of them will enter the next financial year in debt". But Mr Dobson countered that three further cash will have to come NHS regions had no patients waiting more than 18 months -Northern and Yorkshire, Trent and South and West - and that the manifesto pledge to cut they had received the same



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ALLIANCE LEICESTER

Son tells of premonition that his parents were doomed

The families of the six British victims of the Luxor massacre struggled to come to terms with their grief yesterday, while hundreds of tourists cut short their holidays to fly home to safety. Clare Gamer reports.

An elderly British couple killed in the Luxor massacre were urged by their son not to go to Egypt, it emerged yesterday. Paul Wigham told how he had had a "sixth sense" that his parents should not take the trip down the Nile, but that they had not heeded his warnings. Egypt was a country they had always wanted to visit.

"I felt it was too risky after the turmoil," explained Mr Wigham. "I spoke to them at length but they seemed to treat it as a joke. They seemed to think there was more chance of being knocked over on the road or involved in a plane crash, They said it was just the same thing in Egypt as over here."

George and Ivy Wigham, from Swanley, Kent, had flown to Egypt last Friday. Their two- his parents, Mr Wigham, 69, a image of his parents' final mo- mother, Karina, 24, and Kariweek tour of the country was a production manager and Mrs ments. "I just get the same pic- na's mother, Joan, from Rip-



The Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, the site of the massacre, with a bullet hole visible on an adjacent wall (right)

way of celebrating Mrs Wigham, 71, a secretary, had altures of my mother and my fa-Wigham's completion of seven ways dreamt of going down ther having to kneel down while years of study for an Open the Nile. "It was quite a ro- someone machine-gunned mantic idea but we don't know them to death," he said. Paul Wigham, 45, from Colif they managed to do it," he

The other victims were liers Wood, south London, said added. Now he is haunted by the Shaunnah Turner, five, her

ponden, West Yorkshire, and Sylvia Wilder, 26, an air hostess based at Gatwick Airport, who held joint British and Bulgarian nationality.

Travel companies moved swiftly to evacuate surviving Britons. A fleet of aircraft flew to Egypt in the morning to begin an airlift of hundreds of holidaymakers in case of further

The first batch arrived at Heathrow at 12.30pm. Forty of the 100 British pensioners travelling with Saga Holidays had been staying near the scene of the massacre in the popular

Margaret Goatley, 58, from the Isle of Arran, in Scotland, described the panic as tourists tried to flee the country.

Photograph: Reuters

"There was a lot of confusion; we really didn't know what was going on. "It was really frightening. We

packed our bags in less than an hour to get ready to come back to Cairo on time to catch the

Terry O'Brien, 71, from Limerick, Ireland, said on landing: "It was a very grim atmosphere in Luxor; most people felt very scared and upset.

"It turned from a stunning resort to a battleground and pening, it was all so confusing. No one would want to stay with such danger hanging over them. "But I hope it won't put people off going there, because it just wouldn't be fair on the rest of the country."

Major travel firms cancel holiday flights

response yesterday about 140 clients currently in Egypt how hard the terrorist attack have decided to come home in Luxor, which claimed the and only 50 of its 300 holilives of 58 foreign visitors, would hit Egypt's tourist before the end of the year trade. Many flights have been cancelled over the next few days, but the impact in the

long term is less clear. British travel companies are offering clients due to without charge for all departravel to Egypt refunds or tures to Egypt until the end alternative holidays and several countries are considering whether to warn tourists against travelling there.

Egypt has become an increasingly popular holiday destination among Britons, with 350,000 travelling there last year. Until now, this year's tourist numbers had been buoyant, reaching 3.5 million - up from 3.2 million in 1996. However, three

major British tour operators who arrange trips for a large share of these tourists have cancelled all holiday flights to the country over the next three days.

If the tourist figures dip in the longer term, the loss of revenue will be sorely felt. Egypt's tourist industry has an annual turnover of more than £2bn, and up to 10 million people - almost one in six Egyptians – depend on foreign visitors for their livelihood.

Thomas Cook Holidays, Britain's largest tour operator. said it did not anticipate a

Tour operators gave a mixed est in Egypt. Only two of its daymakers due to travel there have decided to cancel or transfer to another destination following Monday's tragety.
The company is accepting

cancellations and transfers of the year. Its next scheduled departure for the country, a Nile Discovery tour leaving on Saturday, is going ahead for those who still wish to go, although the itinerary is being adapted to comply with Foreign Office advice to tourists

to avoid the Luxor area. Britain and the United States have issued emergency advice urging visitors to avoid areas along the Nile in upper Egypt, and Japan has followed suit.

An employee at the Shin Nihon Travel Company, a Japanese company which arranged tours to Egypt for approximately 3,000 tourists last year, said many clients had called in since the attack

to cancel trips. France's National Travel Agents' Union (SNAV) said in a statement that it recommended that members suspend sales of tours to Egypt until further notice", and delay or shift to another holiday destination packages huge decline in tourist inter- already sold. — Gare Gamer

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Recently, the BBC's Watchdog programme disclosed some worrying news for many home owners.

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The young who sing and dance as they murder in the name of Islam

yesterday blamed his interior minister for the pitiful lack of security at the site of Monday's massacre of 58 foreign tourists. He claimed the killers were neither Islamic nor Egyptian. But Gema'a Islamiyah (Islamic responsibility, is part of a homegrown rebellion that may have

splintered into more ferocious

elements.

If the Egyptians want to understand the nature of Monday's slaughter in the Valley of the Queens at Luxor, they could do no better than listen to Rosemarie Dousse, the Swiss woman who lay wounded beneath the bodies of her countrymen as the six killers searched for more tourists to murder. They were very young, she said. And at one pointed they started dancing and singing. Never before in any attack against foreigners or Egyptians - have the rebels behaved like this. Never have they

been particularly young. "They made us get down on our knees," Ms Dousse said, "And then they started shooting. A man who was very heavy fell on me and the lady behind me also covered me ... They shot me in the arm and leg, and then they started again shooting those who were still alive in the head."

Ms Dousse, with incredible presence of mind, smeared the blood of her dead friends over her face and hands so that she should also appear dead. Then the gunmen came back to look for more wounded to kill, some of them with knives. Yet never have Egypt's "Islamist" rebels so methodically forced their victims to kneel, Algerian-style, before shooting or stabbing them to death.

President Mubarak's reaction when he reached Luxor yesterday was anger but in one respect - wide of the mark. The est in. Since his personnel had infiltrated

killers, he said, were "murderers and crim- the rebels, the minister watched the mals who do not belong to Islam or any other religion ... or to the country".

Alas for Mr Mubarak, they are Egyp--depending for their livelihood on tourism -who spat on the corpses of the killers when the hills, the six men who destroyed much with conditions attached. of Egypt's tourist industry in 45 minutes come from the poverty-belt of the Arab world's largest country.

With equal predictability, Mr Mubarak fired his interior minister. "The area is full of tourists and you tell me police are two kilometres away. This is a joke of a strategy." And here the Egyptian president was right. Having so often announced the end of "terrorism", Hassan Alfi, the interior minister, appears to have believed his own boast and failed to ensure that security was maintained. Had he not, after all, broken many of the "Gema'a Islamiyah's"

BY ROBERT **FISK**

cells? Were not hundreds of its members in the massive Tora prison complex? Had not scores confessed and been strung up for their crimes - admittedly after electric torture at the hands of the police? Indeed they had.

And in September, a series of communiqués came from the dark corridors of the Tora complex, appealing for dialogue with the government. The most prominent Islamist lawyer in Cairo - or at least the most prominent since the death of another lawyer in police custody - insisted that the "Gema'a" wanted negotiations.

It was something Mr Alfi had no inter-

"Gema'a" fragment. New village "emirs" took over cells of ever-younger unemployed men, many of them in their middle teens. tians. And despite the fury of Luxor traders And from the villages came word that these new recruits regarded their imprisoned elders as traitors. They had been taught that Egyptian troops brought them down from they were fighting for God - not for God

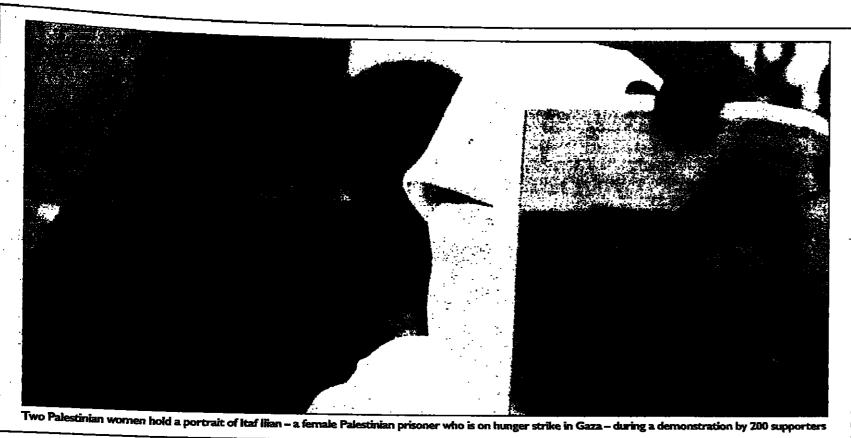
So it is not surprising that Ms Dousse noticed the youth of the murderers at Luxor. And their strange behaviour. A sense of betrayal can breed fearful deeds - as the Algerians know to their cost - and the coldblooded "executions" may well have been the result. And since some of the most ghastly of Algeria's killers are believed to be on drugs during their orgies of blood, so Egypt's new "Gema'a" teenagers may be encouraged to forget their inhibitions. Heroin and hashish are perennial problems among Egypt's poor.

Yesterday morning, a statement from the "Gema'a" was faxed to Reuters news agency in Cairo, apparently without the usual Koranic inscription at the top, claiming that the Luxor gunmen had been trying to kidnap the tourists in exchange for Omar Abdel Rahman, jailed in the United States for bombing conspiracy.

The police, it said, killed the tourists when they confronted the gunmen. It was a lie. But it was a statement which surely came from the hand of an angry and perhaps younger man than usual. Poverty in upper Egypt exists in conclave with the growing suspicion that government ministers involved in corruption. After President Muharak's rebuke, Mr Alfi's ruthless successor, Habib Ibrahim el-Adli, will now send his men in again to make thousands more arrests. And the torture rooms will be open for business already on the third floor of police headquarters in Lazoughly street.

The repression might even prove to be the fire that resolidifies the "Gema'a" again in hatred at the government - which just might be the cruel reasoning behind Monday's atrocity.

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Amnesty's Algeria report hits at security services

cation of responsibility" towards the Al-

gerian people. The report on Algeria describes the civilian population as "caught in a spiral of violence". It notes that massacres have often taken place in close proximity to military barracks and security-forces posts. But, Amnesty notes in its report, "The army and security forces have never intervened to stop the massacres and the murderers were, in each case, allowed to leave undisturbed ?

At the very least, Amnesty argues, "lue Algerian authorities are responsible and should account for the consistent failure to provide protection for the civilian population." In addition, Amnesty talks of the "growing concern" that units of the army or security forces may have been respon-

sible for some of the massacres. In response to reports by Robert Fisk timony of former Algerian policemen, speaking out for the first time), the Algerian

Amnesty International yesterday accused ambassador to London wrote this month the international community of an "abdi- to complain of "limited sources of information" and insufficient "corroborating evidence" for the first-hand accounts.

Amnesty argues, however, that the Algerian government has repeatedly failed to respond to charges. "Amnesty regrets that its requests for talks with the Algerian government, as well as its substantive communications, bave remained without response and that no measures have been taken to address its concerns."

Amnesty concludes its report by noting that the international community has "shunned its responsibilities in the face of a tragedy which takes place in camera". The UN Human Rights Commission has "carefully avoided addressing the issues of the human rights situation in Algeria".

The European Union and parliament have, despite vague declarations con-demning violence, "failed to recognise in the Independent (based partly on the tesman rights violations".

- Steve Crawshaw

Britain warns of Saddam's timebomb

Britain warned yesterday that Iraq could make a small number of chemical and biological arms 'in a matter of months' if UN inspectors were removed. As diplomatic efforts to solve the crisis escalates, Mary Dejevsky finds there is still concern in London and Washington that Baghdad should not be let off the hook.

unusual step of releasing an intelligence assessment pre- and by the United States to try pared for the Government on his hand at a settlement. the threat from Iraq's programmes to build weapons of mass destruction. It said Iraq could build missiles capable of hitting Israel and Saudi Arabia "with little risk of detection" as long as it retained the key components, and warned of the risks of allowing the United Nations Special Commission inspectors to be withdrawn.

"If Unscom were to be removed or prevented from operating for a sustained period, Iraq could produce within a matter of months a small number of chemical or biological weapons, including missiles warheads," the assessment said.

"Provided it still has key components - and that is unclear - Iraq could within a few months build, with little risk of detection, missiles capable of hitting Israel and key targets in Saudi Arabia." The assessment added that any Iraqi attempts to produce crude air-delivered nuclear devices or chemical agents on a large scale would almost certainly be detected.

The information came as it was announced that foreign ministers from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council would meet in Geneva today or tomorrow to discuss a possible diplomatic solution to the dispute with Iraq. The news of a possible peace plan came out of Moscow, where the Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, had held a surprise meeting with the Russian foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov.

The Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein told Russian President Boris Yeltsin in a letter that he wants a "balanced political solution" to the crisis with the United Nations to help lift UN sanctions, Mr Aziz said.

Mr Primakov, a veteran of Gulf politics and the Soviet Union's special envoy to the region before and during the Britain yesterday took the 1991 Gulf War, had been encouraged by Britain, France

This was not how things were presented by the Ameri cans. Embarrassed by reports that Washington was open to improving the terms of Iraq's "oilfor-food" arrangement - under which Iraq may sell \$2bn worth of oil every six months to buy food and medicine for its population - US officials stressed that compromising with Iraq was out of the question and that the

Reinforcing the tough public line it has pursued since the start, the Pentagon announced that it was dispatching more aircraft - B52 and F117 Stealth bombers - to join the 200 or so planes already in the region.

The most likely form of deal appeared to include an increase in the amount of oil Iraq is permitted to sell, more clearly defined conditions for ending sanctions, the return of UN inspection teams to Iraq and an expansion of Unscom, the UN commission overseeing the weapons inspections.

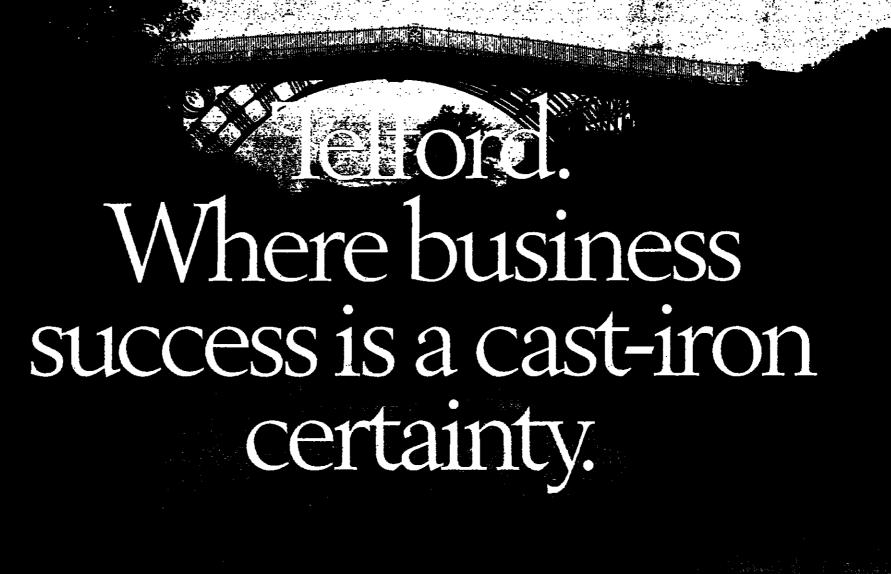
The difficulty for Britain and America is that this amounts to a climbdown from their original hardline position and would give Iraq much of what it wanted when it first moved against American weapons inspectors last month

use of force remained an option. The famous Ironbridge is both a legacy of the Industrial Revolution and a testament to Telford's unstoppable business success. £2,000 million of public and private investment have made it the region's fastest growing town, and CNT, England's largest owner of development

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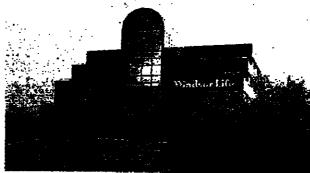
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Libya in the dock as Berlin disco bombing case opens

Libya's days as a terrorist superpower are being revisited in a Berlin court. Eleven years ago three people died, including two a confession and is expected to US soldiers, and 200 were injured by a bomb attack on West Berlin's La Belle discotheque, man citizen of Lebanese origin, a haunt for servicemen.

Ten days later President Ronald Reagan ordered reprisals on Tripoli and Benghazi. One of the US bombs fell on Muammar Gaddafi's tent, killing his adopted daughter, dozens of others died. The triai to determine who was behind the Belle bombing opened yesterday and adjourned: prosecutors said they hope it will be concluded in this millennium.

In the dock are three former employees of the Libyan embassy in East Berlin and their two alleged German accessories. One defendant is also a winness: Musbah Abulghasem

Eter, described as head of the Libyan secret service in the embassy, is said to have made testify against his alleged accomplices. Ali Chanaa, a Gerand Yassir Chraidi, a Palestinian, are accused of organising the attack. Two German sisters, Andrea Haussier, and Mr Chanaa's ex-wife, Verena, are accused of planting the bomb.

Much evidence has been culled from files of the Stasi, the former East German secret service, which knew such an attack was being planned. US spies operating in Berlin also knew and even leaned on the East German authorities to forestall it. The suspicion is that one of the three male defendants was a double agent also working for the Americans.

- Imre Karacs, Bonn

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Serb lover 'used sex' to control RAF man

The trial of an RAF officer accused of murdering his wife was told yesterday that he neglected military duties in Bosnia for his beautiful Serbian interpreter. Kim Sengupta reports on claims of how operations

The Serbian interpreter with a UN military observers unit in Bosnia "used sex to manipulate Tucker became her "lapdog", a court was told yesterday.

were run on her 'whim'.

Lt Timothy Stear, of the Royal Marines, who served with San Ldr Tucker in former Yugoslavia, told the jury that military operations were sometimes decided "on the whim" of Dijana Dudukovic. The 44vear-old officer would go shopping with her in Zagreb while he should have been on patrol.

Sqn Ldr Tucker, of Hon- er was "letting the side down". nington, Suffolk, is accused of murdering his wife Carol, 52, in a staged car accident after be- fierce fighting life was com- of deer. The case continues.

Dudukovic, 21. He denies the

Lt Stear told Norwich Crown Ldr Tucker was, in his view, "inefficient, unprofessional and me he was running around after her, fetching and carrying beer and food for parties, in effect being her landog. She manipulated him, and treated him quite badly."

David Cox, QC, for the defence, suggested to Lt Stear that Ms Dudukovic "was a goodpeople", and Sqn Ldr Nicholas looking woman and attractive to men. Nobody could have had any illusions about her settling down to a cosy long-term relationship". Lt Stear responded: "What I was aware of sir, was that it passed to whoever was in charge.

Lt Stear worked with Squ Ldr Tucker at Sector North in Krajna after serving in Bihac. that by his actions Sqn Ldr Tuck-

He told the court that while Bihac was in the centre of

coming "infatuated" with Ms paratively much easier in Sector North and Son Ldr Tucker appeared to be enjoying him-

self". He said: "He was unaware Court that while in Bosnia Squ of an incident when the RAF officer had been hijacked by masked men in balaclavas." Lt idle". He said: "It appeared to Stear also said that a former operations officers at Kraina from the Norwegian Army also felt that Sqn Ldr Tucker's actions were unprofessional.

Asked to comment on an official report by UN headquarters staff that Sqn Ldr Tucker's conduct had been "excellent", Lieutenant Stear said in the reports "everyone was excellent".

Yesterday morning the judge

and jury went to the scene

where Sqn Ldr Tucker crashed his car at river Lark in Suffolk. While there Sqn Ldr Tucker, standing in an area of long grass next to Lackford Bridge, straddling the narrow stretch of water, cried and wiped his eyes. He had claimed following the The lieutenant told the court crash in July 1995 that the family's car had swerved into the water when his wife had suddealy gripped the steering

wheel in order to avoid a herd



Up for grabs: Sergeant Geoff Bishop with some of the thousands of stolen items recovered in the Kent, Sussex, Surrey, West Mercia and Metropolitan police Photograph: Andrew Buurman areas. Property can be reclaimed when it is put on view at Epsom Racecourse, Surrey, from Friday to Sunday

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Irvine defiant over legal aid shake-up

The Government yesterday in- on the wider legal aid plans. dicated its determination to press ahead with radical plans to reduce the legal aid bill delawyers and consumer groups.

The Lord Chancellor Lord rvine and his junior minister Geoff Hoon are said to be firm and resolute" on the plans which could cut £300m off

the £1.5bn cost of legal aid. They believe much of the opposition to the proposals, which will phase in the conditional no win, no fee system for most civil damages claims next April, comes from solicitors who are "addicted to subsidy" in the form of legal aid whether they win or lose cases. In a Commons debate on Friday Mr Hoon will funding the upfront costs insignal little compromise on the sweeping reforms put forward by Lord Irvine last month.

A senior source in the Lord Dancellor's Department said they would be commissioning management consultants to show how law firms can deal with the commercial risks of litigation. They hope to publish its findings early next year when a consultation document is issued

The source said the message from ministers is that these "fairly radical" plans are "going spite widespread hostility from to happen ... Otherwise there will be an assumption that things will not really change".

The toughness of yesterday's comments show the frustration of ministers that the perceived benefits of their plans have been ignored. Removing legal aid from most civil damages actions could free money for more deserving cases, such as tenant claims against landlords. and give more not less access to the poor, they claim.

They insist that solicitors should be prepared to bear the risk of bringing cases - and volved - in the same way as other businesses. "Lawvers seem to want a situation where everybody bears the risk apart from themselves," said the source.

The Law Society said yesterday it was concerned the Government wanted to go ahead with its "ill-considered and ill-thought proposals". — Michael Streeter,

Legal Affairs Correspondent

Business park could create 15,000 jobs in Ulster

Plans for a £100m investment in Northern Ireland with the potential to create up to 15,000 jobs were unveiled. The largest single jobs boost in the history of the province, if successful, could slash unemployment by nearly 25 per cent.

The Welsh-based investment company TBL, which bought Belfast International Airport for £100m 15 months ago, proposes developing 190 acres of surplus airport land into a massive mixed-business development. The company proposes building the UK's first "call-centre park" of 450,000 square feet, offices, aircraft-maintenance hangars, freight, cargo and warehousing, business units and a non-food factory outlet village. Emphasising the potential for call centres, TBI said that in the US more than 40 per cent of all phone calls made were into and out through a call centre - in the UK it was only 4 per cent.

Vatican urged to open files

Leading British Jews have appealed to the Vatican to open its wartime files on the Nazis' relations with the Catholic Church. As efforts continue to trace the assets of Holocaust victims, Eldred Tabachnik, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said: "So long as as the archives remain closed, people's understanding of those relationships will be based upon rumour and speculation. It would be a matter of lasting regret if the Vatican were unable to assure the world as to the truth of its relationships during the Nazi

Policeman jailed for assault

A policeman was jailed for six months at the Old Bailey after being convicted of kicking a student 20 times on the eve of a festival for the homeless.

Paul Evans, 32, from Stoke Newington police station, north London, brought disgrace on himself and shame on his profession, said Judge Graham Boal. The jury was told he assaulted Ben Swarbrick; he was also found guilty of affray. but cleared of other charges of assault, false imprisonment and conspiring to pervert the course of justice. Evans will be sacked from the police and lose his pension.

- Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent Benny violin nets £49,900

Jack Benny's violin, an essential part of the comedian's act in films, television and variety for more than 40 years, was sold for £49,900 at Sotheby's in London.

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Major boosts Malone's circus act

Gerry Malone's circus came to Winchester in a big way yesterday with John Major giving his support. Onlookers might have imagined the former health minister had tomorrow's byelection in the bag. But the picture is not quite so clear, says Fran Abrams.

ly coiffeured ladies smooth their already flawless attire. In their midst stands Gerry Malone, a former Tory health minblue sweater and a pair of green wellies. This is life on "the knocker" Hampshire-style.

Mr. Malone - declared loser by two votes on 1 May only to overnm the verdict in court - has turned down a biscuit, as he is on a diet. So far there has been little sign of sceptical questioning or hard-edged debate despite an earlier "hit" on a mobile home park populated by elderly voters of a mainly blue-rinse hue.

Barry Nicholson, the Swanmore branch treasurer in whose house the biscuits are being served, believes Mr Malone can win. But he admits the campaign has been hit by claims, in his view unjustified, that the Liberal Democrat candidate, Mark Oaten, will be more visible locally.

Mr Malone agrees the issue is a major one. "You can go off a hoard of sweatshirts, screamand be a dustman for a day, but you don't have to be an MP to do it," he says, referring to a recent publicity stunt by his rival.

Back out into the rain, and some real canvassing seems to tion as a political bruiser, the be on the menu. But the first candidate has done a sterling

supporters who listen intently while their candidate explains that the electorate has now flaked their desire to give the Tories a kicking.

Off down the road again, the rest of the party is forced to break into an intermittent trot. "Come on! crack on!"Mr Malone cries, and crack on he does. A couple of handshakes with shopkeepers then off into a private housing estate at a gallop.

Finally, a challenge: How will Gerry vote on the age of homo-11.15am and the chocolate sexual consent? An easy one, this brownies are circulating as neat - around here there are not too many gay rights campaigners and he fields it easily to receive the promise of a vote. Within minutes, he is disappearing down the ister, dressed in corduroys, a road in his battle-bus for his meeting with Mr Major.

The former Prime Minister. hot foot from the Beckenham by-election, also tomorrow, lunches with the candidate before a walk-about in the city centre. Here, the party's youth are waiting in sweatshirts which say: "Winchester needs Gerry back." Given Mr Malone's statement in this week's Hampshire Chronicle that he "did not need to surround myself with mincers and spin doctors" their

presence is all more remarkable.

Half way up the high street stand a man and a woman plastered in Liberal Democrat stickers, bearing a poster which reads: "Tory betrayal of Lloyds names". Tony Hockley, Mr Malone's press officer, throws himself in front of them along with ing: "Gerry back! Gerry back! No more silent Liberals."

Mr Malone and Mr Major pass by on the other side of the road. For a man with a reputastop is at the home of some Tory job of avoiding his detractors.



Hair-raising event: John Major talking to customers at a salon in Beckenham, south-east London, during a by-election campaign visit yesterday

Mileage penalty for company cars

The Chancellor is to target company cars as part of a package of "green" taxes in a pre-Budget statement next Tuesday.

As part of the Government's attempts to dissuade people from using polluting vehicles, Gordon Brown will be changing the tax system to make the tax on company cars more geared to the miles business users travel. At present some of the 1.6 million business car users get a tax discount if they have a high business mileage. That system is to end, and business users in future will pay more for higher mileage, while those with low mileage will pay less tax.

The pre-Budget statement will be the first time that a Chancellor has opened his Budget box for consultation before producing firm proposals. Mr Brown will return in the spring with firm proposals in the Budget, and next week's package will be seen as an attempt to soften up public opinion for some potentially unpopular tax increases on motorists.

— Colin Browl



reception's terrible, have another look for my tape



like I said, it's not in here



Appeal row rocks 'sleaze' body

Parliament's official sleaze investigator was yesterday accused of exerting improper influence to block an appeal for Neil Hamilton. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, reports on the

Westminster row.

Ann Widdecombe yesterday resigned from the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee after denouncing its investigation into the cash-for-question affair as a "shambles", and claiming a breakdown of trust within the

commutee. But her protest resignation was later capped by a sensational charge made by Quentin Davies, another Conservative member of the committee. Disclosing the committee's private deliberations, he alleged that Sir Gordon Downey, the independent Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, had intervened to block any appeal for Mr Hamilton, the former means that in future I would be Tory MP accused of accepting cash from Mohamed Al Fayed,

the owner of Harrods. The lack of appeal for Mr Hamilton was widely deposmeed as a denial of his fundamental rights of natural later be put on my position ...

justice in a Commons debate on Monday. Mr Davies told BBC radio's World at One yesterday: "The Commissioner played an unfortunate role in this, because, though I think it was a very good report, he then got very upset when it looked as though there was a possibility of appeal, and his verdict might be opened up again.

When it came to the crunch, he tried to use his influence to stop that happening. That was quite wrong.

Miss Widdecombe told The Independent she would not criticise a public official, but she was scathing in her condemnation of Robert Sheldon, Labour chairman of the Standards and Privileges Committee, who said after it issued its report on 6 November that the committee had voted nine-nil and that there was compelling evidence that Mr Hamilton had taken Mr Payed's money. She said in her resignation letter that that was "a gross misrepresentation" of her view - that the case against Mr Hamilton was not proven.

She told Mr Sheldon: "What is at issue is that this experience most unwilling to work towards compromise or unanimity, were I to entertain doubts or reservations about any matter, because I could never be sure of the formal construction which would







I'm not joking

you know it never leaves the car



like I need reminding

tapes don't just vanish into thin air





Hospital failed bereaved

A London teaching hospital's failure to deal with complaints from bereaved relatives was so "grotesque" that it defied any sense of compassion, MPs said yesterday. The University College London Hospitals NHS Trust received six complaints within two years but failed to send proper replies, the Commons

committee on the Ombudsman was told. In one case, in 1994, a woman complained after she was not immediately told of her father's deteriorating health and subsequent death and that she had to wait several hours before she was allowed to see his body. She wrote to the hospinal the same day and received a letter of acknowledgement addressed incorrectly three days later, but she was never sent

a reply to her complaint. Challenged by MPs, Sir Ronald Mason, chairman of the trust, said there had been "a tragic lack of communication" but promised the likelihood of it happening again was negli-Jeremy Laurance

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Master tactician's blunder thwarts Russian progress

Anatoly Chubais, is caught in a corruption scandal. Unlike most Kremlin intrigues, this one threatens to derail the country from its path to change. Phil Reeves reports from Moscow.

Whatever the outcome of Russia's latest scandale du jour, one fact is clear: the country's transition towards a Western-style economy will now be even slower and more an equally large hole in his credibility. tortured. All this, thanks to an astonishing blunder by a man who was meant to be a master tactician: Anatoly Chubais.

A week ago Mr Chubais was in an enviably strong position in the Kremlin. Working with another young reformer, Boris Nemtsov, he was the strongest of the fractious forces behind Boris Yeltsin, Few outside the country cared that he is detested by most Russians, who see him as a gingery Rasputin who gave away the nation's riches. To Western eves, he was a hard-headed whiz-kid who could save the Russian economy by forcing the old guard to accept a realistic budget and tax reforms. Time and again, international investors and diplomats cited his presence as a reason for optimism.

Now the balloon has burst. Even if he retains his job as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr Chubais's position has been drastically weakened. Anxious not to dent international confidence, Boris Yeltsin refused his offer to resign last weekend, but many on-lookers believe that he cannot stay on for long. Parliament's dominant Communists are threatening to refuse to pass the crucial 1998 budget unless they receive his scalp. True, Mr Yeltsin reacts badly to ultimatums, yet his minister's long term future looks grim.

Before Chuhais had a reliable team and the full support of the president. He now lacks both," said Alexander Bevz, head of the Civil Society Foundation in Moscow. "I think he will be made a scapegoat, and

The champion of Russia's reforms, that he has three months at most." The cause of his demise is surprisingly paltry, given the vast sums of money which routinely cross his desk. He received \$90,000 as an alleged advance for an unpublished economics book from a company controlled by one of the main beneficiaries of several big state sell-offs. Four co-authors, all once in government, also received similarly suspicious payments. Three were fired last week, one had already been sacked over an earlier scandal. Their departure has blown a big hole in Mr Chubais's team, and

> Mr Chubais, 42, was never a white-hatted hero. Rumours have long circulated about his finances. His credentials as a democrat or a liberal are scanty - as he proved by masterminding Boris Yeltsin's unprincipled election campaign last year. But the latest revelations supply the first really damaging evidence against him. Corruption is one of the biggest blights of the Russian есолоту; combating it is supposed to be central to his brief.

In many ways, Mr Chubais's mistake was not so much greed or stupidity as underestimating his enemies. He gunned for his rival Boris Berezovsky, a billionaire tycoon sacked from Russia's Security Council last month. Unlike most of Mr Chubais's enemies, the businessman was well equipped to reply in kind; he owns newspapers and a television station. Armed with some "kompromat" (compromising material) revenge was easy.

For Russia, the Chubais affair is untimely. There have been signs that Russia could soon register its first annual growth since Soviet times. Foreign investment was picking up; even the gloomier tea-leaf gazers were beginning to concede that Russia's fortunes may at last be turning. "This has undermined all hope for economic growth next year," said Alexander Piontkovsky, head of a Moscow think-tank, the Centre for Strategic Studies. He believes that the flight of foreign investors from the Russian market is now inevitable. For now, the mood is once again bleak and wintry.



A police diver carrying a victim out of the Yamuna river in New Delhi yesterday after a school bus crashed killing 27 children. Sixty were also injured when the bus with up to 110 children on board skidded and plunged 30ft into the waterPhotograph: AP

Kohl's Christian Democrats catch up on pink politics

The German Christian Democrats, self-declared champions of the family, are about to embark on the path trodden by their opponents. Every party but Helmut Kohl's own has a homosexual section. Now, a group of gay CDU activists are also planning to come out.

"There are many examples of gays losing their party mandates when they are discovered to be homosexual," said Lars Lüttich, one of the organisers of Gay Christian Democrats.

Representatives of five of Germany's 16 länder held their in-

augural meeting at the weekend. There are, he adds, many promi-A national congress, involving gay Christian Democrats from every region, is planned for next March. Most of the group, like Mr Luttich, have held high-ranking posts in the CDU's youth wing, and saw their careers broken because of their sexuality. They are united by the goal of raising the profile of gays in the party by

"It must be possible for someone to say I am homosexual' without the danger of suffering discrimination," Mr Lüttich said.

campaigning for greater toler-

nent gays in the top echelons of the party who do not dare to come out because of the fear of repercussions. Several of them: work in the Chancellor's inner circle-Mr Kohl professes not to care, so long as his colleagues are loyal and do their jobs property.

The rest of the party is not so tolerant, however. The grass roots are vehemently opposed to gay liberation, and have scuppered all attempts to allow homosexuals to adopt children.

The party is also burdened by history of persecution, which

gay activists say stems directly from Nazi practices. Next February, Mr Lüttich and his friends plan to hold a seminar about the "gay Holocaust". In order to draw attention to parallels be-"tween the treatment of Jews and homosexuals, this meeting will be held at the villa in Wannsee where the plan for the Final Solution was hatched.

Christian Democrat-led governments kept the notorious Nazi law in force until the Seventies, resulting in 100,000 prosecutions and 50,000 convictions. — Imre Karacs, Bonn

Murder hunt suspect seizes envoy's family

A murder suspect sought in a six-month manhunt took a South African embassy official and his family hostage in a suburban Taipei house last night.

Police had surrounded Chen Chin-hsing, in the house in a mountainous area of the Taiwanese capital. Chen was wanted in connection with the kidnap and murder of a teenage girl and the murder of a plastic surgeon and two nurses.

Colonel EGM Alexander. the military attaché at the South African High Commission, was brought out of the house, apparently wounded in the shoulder. "Just get my wife and family out of there," he shout-

His oldest daughter, Melanie, 22, was brought out on a stretcher with what appeared to be a gunshot wound, but another daughter, his wife and an unidentified infant were still inside, police said, as the standoff continued into the early

morning hours. Doctors at Yang Ming General Hospital in Taipei said Col Alexander and his eldest daughter were in stable condition.

A man claiming to be Chen spoke to Taiwan Television by telephone, saying he was "forced" into taking the hostages to fight for the innocence of his friends and relatives now being held by police in connection with the earlier kidnap

and murder. Chen is the last survivor among three men suspected of kidnapping and murdering Pai Hsiao-yen, the 17-year-old daughter of one of Taiwan's most popular entertainers, in April

Chen is also suspected of breaking into homes around Taipei and raping several

— AP, Taipei

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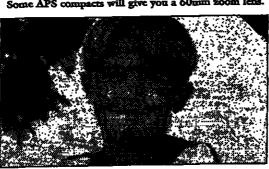
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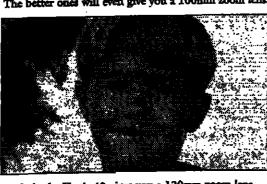


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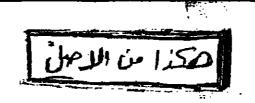
And those disappointing ones, just a distant



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Bargains galore as new era dawns for Paris's finest hotel

The entire contents of one of the world's most celebrated hotels, the George V in Paris, go up for auction this week and next. The 10,000 lots range from a bed used by the Rolling Stones to Marlene Dietrich's dressing-table. John Lichfield joined the throng bidding for a scrap of modern Parisian history.

last commissionaire's peaked champagne bucket

If you want a hotel mini-bar with the George V insignia, there is still time: there are 200 of them on offer for about £70 each. "They still work," an auctioneer's assistant whispered which (allegedly) "Paul Getty to one potential buyer, "but they are excessivement démodé (hopelessly out-of-date)."

That was the problem with the George V. Only 72 years old, and an art nouveau temple er, Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, nephew of curiosity, fetched £1,600. King Fahd, decided last month to rip everything out and start not sell was a walk-in safe, inagain. He paid £90m for the hostalled in 1930. It would cost tel, just off the Champs Elysées, £10,000 to remove from the hoand plans to spend £30m on its tel, Mr Tajan said. It failed to restoration.

old George V, except for a few

ual items, scores of them asso- £450. A new George V will open ciated with names who stayed next autumn, with a gym, swimat the hotel. There was a 300m ming-pool and bigger rooms, queue over the weekend to each equipped with a fax maview the most prestigious objects, and hundreds of people an Internet connection. The packed into the first evening of rooms will, doubtless, have the sale on Monday night.

Anything with the George V crest, or a connection with a celebrity, however tenuous, was knocked down for an inflated Parisian hotels, able to charge price. A pair of snot-coloured £300 a night for the cheapest Staffordshire porcelain dogs, which once stood in Greta Garbo's room? £4,500. A pair of boring watercolours which had auction, it felt as if the Hôtel been on the wall of the suite where Jimmy Carter stayed? Everything must go, down to the £450. The dressing-table from the room Marlene Dietrich cap; down to the last crested used to block-book for years at a time? £1,200.

The double bed in which the Rolling Stones slept (all of them?) went for £4,300, with the rest of the furniture of suite 315 thrown in. The small table on signed his cheques" fetched £500. There was much excitement about a marble post-box which stood in the lobby and which, according to Jacques Tajan, the auctioneer, "was only for the fashionable and famous ever used for love-letters". It in its day, it had become exces- went for £1,200. A mobile sivement démodé. Its new own- cheese-table, capable of warming the cheeses - a great

The only item which did reach its guide price of £2,000. The entire contents of the Perhaps the saddest lot of all was the first item in the sale, the celebrated tapestries, are on sale blue-and-gold flag which flew to the highest bidder. There are atop the George V for 70 years. 10.000 lots and 25,000 individ- It went to a French dealer for



The George V will take its place again in the front rank of rooms (instead of £200 or less). But what price character? Watching the first night of the George V was selling off its



Blockbuster: Auctioneer Jacques Tajan with some of the furniture that was offered for sale by the George V before the celebrated Paris hotel closed for a £30m renovation after its purchase by a member of the Saudi Arabian royal family. It will reopen for business next autumn. Photograph: AFP

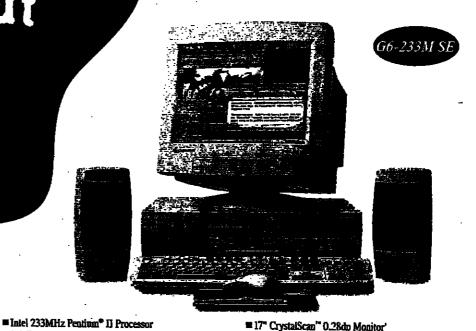
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first step towards the millennium, is the authorities' lackadaisical approach to urgently needed expansion. The Culture Minister, Esperanza Aguirre, who last year annulled a massively trumpeted international competition, saying that none of the submissions was suitable, last week announced yet

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Detail from Antoine Coypel's Susanna accused of Photograph: Bridgeman Art Library

Prado parades hidden treasures

Madrid's Prado Museum has cleared out its attic to make 10 new rooms devoted to works rarely or never exhibited before. The loft extension that opened to the public vesterday contains works by Goya, Tiepolo, Canova and Mengs - and some important and Watteau, magnificent British artists - long buried court portraits by Mengs and in the vaults of Europe's finest art collection.

The display of 171 paintings, sketches and sculptures marks "the first consistent exhibition of the Prado's collection of 18th-century European art ever mounted", the director, Fernando Checa, said. It includes the museum's most recent acquisition, The Waches, by Goya, and his equally arresting Duchess of Alba with her Chaperon.

The works are displayed in a specially low-lit circular chamber amid more than 30 Goya sketches that explore the artist's vision of nightmares, witcheraft and ignorance. The sketches, shown for the first time for decades, attracts," Mr Checa said. will be on view for only two months a year because of stand, given this confident their fragile state.

The attic rooms, for years used as repair workshops and storage rooms, have had their ceilings lifted by a metre and are lit by filtered natural light, augmented by spots. But we can turn the spots down when the sun shines", said a spokesman as if in tacit apology for uncharacteristically gloomy stries. Dispelling the gloom.

lection of court paintings whose luminous intensity is the result of restoration that most of them underwent in preparation for this exhibition. The works, sensuous country scenes by Boucher a stunning Susanna accused of adultery by Antoine Coypel mark the transition from the Habsburg to the Bourbon dynasties following the War of the Spanish Succession,

which ended in 1713. These rooms are more intimate in scale than the rest of the museum and echo the style of Spanish palaces of the time, with geometric marble tiled floors and eau-de-Nil walls, adorned with objects and furniture.

For the first time, the museum offers explanatory information on the labels identifying each work, "as part of our educational effort directed at the broad range of visitors that the museum

another contest. — Elizabeth Nash, Modrid

14/ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Setting targets for tomorrow's world

A book to be published next week says Britain must cut fossil fuel use by 90 per cent and make huge reductions in its consumption of other natural resources, for the sake of the planet and all its people. Nicholas Schoon, Environment Correspondent, looks forward to 'Tomorrow's World.

If the Earth's entire population midway through the next century were to live as we in Britain do today, humanity would need about seven extra planets. Eight earths could provide our natural resources quickly enough, along all our wastes and pollution without critical environmental degradation.

So, says the book commissioned by Friends of the Earth UK, we need to make drastic cutbacks by 2050 - to allow others in poorer, developing countries their fair share of planetary resources and to bring already stressed life-support systems back within safety margins.

As well as an 88 per cent cut in the United Kingdom's fossil fuel use, we ought to use 73 per cent less timber, 15 per cent less water, and cut our consumption of aluminium, steel and ce- should be for key resources.

We should halve our use of rock. sand and gravel by 2050 and mostly in the chemicals and plastics industry.

"Imagine a city enclosed in an enormous, impenetrable how that might be done. transparent dome," the book fore the accumulation of wastes and depletion of resources within it made life intolerable, or imwithin such a 'glass bubble' there is a growing realisation that increasing population and increasing consumption are pushing at the limits of what Earth can take."

Signs of abuse and stress are already visible around the world as water shortages, loss of soil fertility, dwindling fish stocks with the capacity to assimilate and rising temperatures caused by a build-up of greenhouse gases. In the next century, the threats will be much greater.

A quarter century ago, it was thought humanity would soon run out of basic, non-renewable resources like oil and metals due to the rapid growth in population and industrialisation. Now the dangers are seen as overwhelming nature's ability to absorb pollution, and using renewable resources like wood at a rate far beyond what can be

The authors estimated what the global consumption limits

How much do we need for the good life?

Number of planets needed to sustain current global consumption in 2050 if all countries consumed as Britain does now

ment by more than 70 per cent. Next they allocated Britain a share based purely on the size of its population and not its releliminate the chlorine we use, ative wealth. Then they calculated how much the UK would have to cut its consumption from current levels, and propose

The limits they came up says. "It would not be long be- with are mostly extremely rough and ready, because the science and economics of calculating just what punishment the earth possible. The entire planet is can take are in their early infancy. Much depends on what degree of despoliation is regarded as tolerable, and what techniques are used to exploit natural resources.

Water is the only resource they treat as purely national - all the others can and are freely traded around the world. The book proposes a 15 per cent cut in the total quantity the water companies take, easing the strain on rivers and wetlands and giving some safety margin against declines in rainfall caused by man-made climate change.

The book accepts bringing about these changes will mean huge changes in attitudes, business and in government in Britain and internationally. A start must be made now. But, in the real world, it seems most likely that we will carry on with

 Tomorrow's World, by Duncan McLaren, Simon Bullock and Nusrat Yousuf, published by

target for 205

Prescott's global mission

The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, tomorrow begins his second round the world voyage inside a month, searching for a breakthrough in the deadlocked global warming negotiations.

New Zealand and Australia talking to prime ministers, their deputies and environment ministers, before the 10-day climate change summit in Kyoto, Japan, which begins in under a formight.

Yesterday, Mr Prescott told journalists that countries were still deeply divided on how far they should cut their rising emissions of the gases which cause climate change. chiefly carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels. But some issues over which there could be agreement were beginning

The European Union was still holding out for all developed countries to commit to cutting their emissions by 15 per cent by 2010, said Mr Prescott, Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions. But the United States wants only to stabilise its climate pollution

at the 1990 level by 2010. The developed, industri-alised states are also divided over what the developing nations should commit themselves to. Poor countries, such as India and China, are hostile to demands that they should take action when the rich, Western nations which have produced the great bulk of greenhouse gases to date, seem reluctant to act.

Michael Meacher, environment minister, reiterated Labour's manifesto pledge that Britain would cut its carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent by 2010. It would mean "a more discriminato-

60mm of rain fell in the far west of England in 24 hours.

The hottest November

day in more than a

century was followed

yesterday by torrential

downpours, prompting

England. Louise jury looks

The Environment Agency

issued flood alerts on 16 stretch-

es of river in Somerset, Dorset,

Devon and Cornwall yester-

flood warnings across

the South-west of

at the impact of the

latest blip on the

weather front.

latest shift in weather patterns came after the Scottish Highlands recorded the hottest temperature anywhere in the British Isles for the second half of November since 1895.

Wildlife becomes casualty of the

The temperature in Aultbea in the Wester Ross region of the Highlands reached 18.8C (65.8F) on Monday, beating the previous record of 18.7C (65.6F) set in Croydon, south London, earlier the same day. Eddie Graham, of PA

WeatherCentre, said: "This is a pretty impressive record to break." And in those parts of the country unaffected by rain. the strangely mild weather could continue for some days. day as the skies opened. About It has been caused by warm air sweeping across the Atlantic from warmer places like the The sudden downpours Azores and Bermuda.

The normal temperature for themselves. this time of year ranges from 7C (45F) in Scotland to up to 15C (59F) on the south coast of England. The warm spell is the lat-

variable summer. Hedgehogs are among the wildlife left suffering by the sudden shifts. The Hedgehog Preservation Society has reported hundreds of baby hedgehogs around at the moment because of the knock-on

est weather novelty in a year

which saw an Easter heatwave

followed by snow in May and a

Anne Jenkins, a spokeswoman for the preservation society, said there were always some "autumn orphans" hedgehogs abandoned as their parents hibernated and too might live.

small to survive the winter

But the strange weather has caused havoc to the breeding patterns. Many of the first litters were killed by the cold spell in May. Hedgehogs went on to breed again, with second litters coming as late as September. The result was many tiny babies now. "The seasons have really

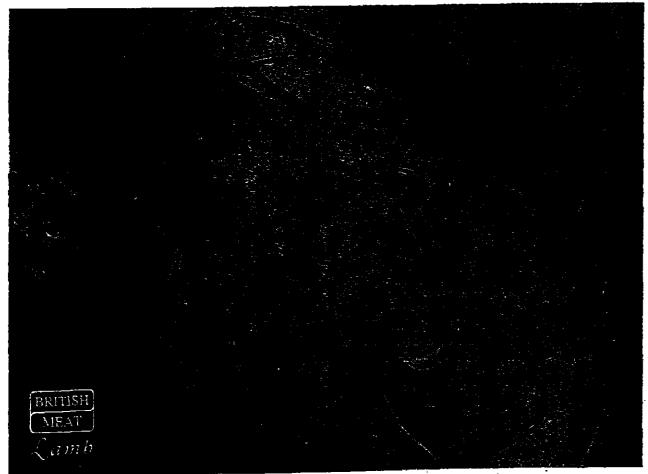
interfered," Mrs Jenkins said. The baby hedgehogs, the size of a grapefruit when half grown, had no chance of putting on enough weight to be able to effects of the unusual weather. survive without human help.

However, Mrs Jenkins said if they were given a dry cardboard box home and fed - dog or cat food, crushed digestives or muesli were all ideal - they

He will fly to India, Japan,

ry use of cars", he said. — Nicholas Schoon

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(Source: IDC/LINK)

FACT

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for specific customer segments. It can also gather valuable and meaningful information from every order to form the basis of marketing statistics. The sole distributor of Shimano bicycle components in Italy, MIC, uses Net.Commerce to link 4,000 retailers and share marketing information.

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k as well without

last year to over £120 billion by the millenium. Less obvious, but with greater potential, is the market for business-to-business e-commerce. PC Week predicts that goods purchased on-line by businesses will grow from £4.8 billion last year to over £198 billion by 2002.

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Court in the act of writing

London's Royal Court is not only home to the best of new British Writing, it's now playing host to all of Europe too. Paul Taylor outlines the cordial intent behind the New European Writers' Season.

It has passed into theatrical mythology that it took a British production (at the National Theatre) to alert Broadway to the existence and merits of Angels in America, a play that the US now recognises as a contemporary classic of its indigenous stage. Tony Kushner's epic had at least been composed on home ground. though, and it had had a San Francisco premiere. What Britain gave it was the level of recognition it deserved, superb production values and a high

Now compare the case of the young Spanish dramatist, David Planell, whose comedy Bazaar is about to be produced as part of the Royal Court's ambitious New European Writers' Season (a season which opens tonight with a French play, Christophe Pellet's One More Wasted Year). When Planeli first came to the Court's annual International Summer School in 1995, he had never written a piece for theatre, let alone had

His background was in television, where one of his deeply unenviable hack jobs was choosing the clips and writing the linking material for a Spanish Jeremy Beadle on a You Have Been Framed-type series. It is the farcical desire to reshoot fake footage of a real-life bike accident (and so clean up on the two million pesetas prize money for winning clips) that animates Bazaar, a very funny three-hander about the hazards of cultural integration, featuring two of Madrid's Moroccan immigrant community and a white-trash Spaniard.

This first piece for the stage

has recently garnered the Best Comedy Award in Spain, played a 2,000-seater theatre there and gone on a major tour. new work. But that sequence is, in fact, deceptive. The Court had already programmed John Clifford's translation into its 97/8 season before Planell's play was picked up in Spain and it is safe to say that Bazaar would not exist in the form it does - or with its zingy, heightened speech rhythms - if its author had not attended that Summer School or if the Court, in the past four years, had not set up its careful network of foreign-exchange programmes (the longest of which is with the Deutsches Theater, Berlin).

Planell's piece illustrates, therefore, a key feature of this season (which includes, as well as three full productions, programmes of rehearsed readings and context-providing seminars). The main items are not the result of some European shopping spree, raiding the foreign supermarkets of their established best buys. They are the result of sustained development work by the Court it-

The International Summer School began in the lean, mean Eighties as a way - and people are pretty frank about this - of making easy money for the cash-strapped Court. Like one of those well-heeled EFL colleges that bask in the lucrative shadow of Oxford or Cambridge, the students then were mostly rich American kids. In the past few years, though, under Elyse Dodgson, the earth- Season and the work and phi-

mother-like head of the Court's losophy behind it are fraught international department, and with new financial input from the British Council, the School has become a thriving place where aspiring writers and directors from countries that have no new-writing culture to speak of can come into close working contact with a culture specifically devoted to developing

Listening to the enthusiasts of this scheme and of the various two-way exchange programmes, you sometimes feel that it would take the novelistic pen of a David Lodge to do justice to the whole thing. There are stories of Elyse Dodgson and the Court's artistic director, Stephen Daldry, having to lie down together on the floor of the taxi that was smuggling them across the border between Israel and Palestine - surely the only time anyone has ever traversed the border in quite that posture in search of new writing.

There are tales of Third World participants having fits when treated to their first dose of good old stage-depicted homosexuality. And many students, you reckon, leave the course knowing the meaning of "rumpy pumpy" in more than one language. Some cross-fertilisings of the cultural type can also make you smile. Coming from a poetic, non-character-led playwriting scene, David Planell found his voice by listening to vibrant Anglo-American voices like that of Jez (Mojo) Butterworth. But he also fell under the spell of Nigel Williams, whose ill-fated Harry and Me he is currently translating into Spanish. You wonder whether the Court should have this last on its conscience rather than on its list of

proud achievements. The New European Writers'

with risks and difficulties. But having had access to this year's scripts and talked to some of the participants, I'm convinced that it is precisely because it is exploratory and full of openended opportunity - and unsure of success - that it is worth doing. The whole question of how cultures perceive/misperceive present/misrepresent each other is thrown right on to the cen-

tre of the table. How, for example, do you communicate to an English audience a play like Dea Loher's Stranger's House, which in the original is written mostly in the subjunctive, wrapping the events in a strange hypotheticality, and in Hoch-Deutsch, for which there is no equivalent linguistic register? Does the mere fact of lumping writers together in national categories, like some Olympic swimming team, make us too ready to spot preoccupations in them we have aldecided representative? For example, is Stranger's House quite as quintessentially "about the guilt of

Graham Whybrow, the Court's literary manager, is persuasive that you can't prematurely abstract new plays from the theatrical and political context that gave them their first lease of life. Hence the value of exchange programmes which enable people to see the production aesthetics you could never deduce from the page. He cites the work of Christoph Marthaler (whose Murx and Stunde Null have since been seen at LIFT) as an exciting demonstration that you can create a stark, compelling piece of theatre without needing a play.

the survivor" as we would like

Just how different a the-



atrical culture can be was brought home to me when I. spent a few days in Berlin recently, meeting, among others, two of the young playwrights whose work will be performed in the Goethe Institute-sponsored series of rehearsed readings that are part of the Court

season. Simone Schneider's Malaria presents a future-shock vision of Berlin, where the noise from the ubiquitous building sites that have shot up since Unification is driving the rats into panicked overbreeding. Focusing on a couple of pornloving ne'er-do-wells who have

a corpse in the freezer, Oliver Bukowski's Bis Denver (rendered by David Spencer as Jamaica) is an extraordinarily pungent splurge of language. half East German demotic, half invented; that makes James Kelman sound like Jane Ansten. Even a bilingual speak-

jingles, as though he is traving an

Writes of passage Christophe Pellet's 'One More Wasted Year' opens the Royal Court's New European Writers' Season tonight

Photograph: Geraint Lewis

er might quail, pondering how you would translate a typical line like Wer a shite-heap a shaped up shit wat sum pisshead blew life inter" back into the original.

One telling feature of our three-cornered meeting was that the two German playwrights clearly weren't acquainted nearly as well as two equivalent English dramatists would be: they spent a fair bit of time arguing with each other about the best strategy for improving a theatrical landscape where a dramatist is expected to hand over a play to the ego of the director and then effectively vanish; where there's no meeting place for playwrights; where (despite the fact that there's no separation in Germany between publisher and agent) there iso't a culture of reading plays in book form and thus extending their influence; and where audi ences, reared on the latest interpretation of the classics, will tend to ask of a new play not "What is it about?" but "How was it done?"

For various reasons too complicated to go into here. Schneider and her Theater Neuen Typs group argue for secession. Bukowski for pragmatic collaboration. They will be able to continue that dialogue in December when, in what is a tribute to the current season and the philosophy behind it, they will meet again at the Royal Court. Booking: 0171-565 5000

Mold and cast are both in good Hands

As ex-RSC director Terry Hands boldly launches his new Theatr Clwyd company with four new productions in as many days, jeffrey Wainwright hails a new Welsh national theatre in the making.

One sometimes hears tell of a strain of jaundice afflicting regional theatre directors which takes the form of a fixed belief that actors can only be seduced beyond the circumference of 0171 when they are in such a state of penury that their mobile phones are about to be repossessed. Even then they would play Lear or Cleopatra for three weeks max, all passed in mortal terror of missing the chance of a voice-over for Tweets.

Terry Hands is clearly not susceptible to this ague, for, having taken over the directorship of Theatr Clwyd, he has planned an inaugural season is a shrewd inclusion in the first

7 days for a full refund

rent conceptions of the art of possible casting. He has gathered a cast of 24 actors in Mold to mount four initial stagings all given their national openings last week - to be followed in the New Year by a new Christmas show and two further productions: a rare revival of David l bese will all run in repertor throughout next spring.

It is not difficult to see that Hands is reviving the halcyon spirit of the RSC in this enterprise – a long-standing company of actors engaged in a variety of work which they can continue to develop, instead of having to stop just as they are reaching their potential. For the regular audience, there is that now rare but inestimable pleasure of seeing actors in utterly different roles within a few nights. And the actors get to live in Mold, which has hills and parking.

The Rape of the Fair Country

that stretches to invisibility cur- wave. Adapted here by one of the company members, Manon Eames, the late Alexander Cordell's tale of iron and blood set in the newly industrialising cauldron of South Wales is a company show that strikes some strong bass strings for its audience. It is directed by the theatre's new associate director, Rudkin's memorable Afore Tim Baker, and the style owes Night Come, and a new play. a good deal to the contemporary model of novel a where the narrative voice is tossed swiftly among the characters, and not a little to the marching-into-the-footlights

stir of Les Misérables. But the powerful story of Iestyn Mortimer's initiation from the age of nine into the brutal world of the early iron foundries is forcefully and movingly told. There is unexpected complexity, too, in the Mortimer family's split attitudes to their labour, with the patriarchal Dada (a bravura performance from Ifan Huw Dafydd) carrying machismo into masochism in his faithfulness to his



Horse play: Theatr Clwyd's 'Equus'

masters and the work ethic. while his daughter Morfydd (Vivien Parry) espouses Chartism. Mark Bailey spectacular set is dominated by a tramway gantry which is the site and emblem of the workers' suffering, and Nick Beadle lights it with the livid flare of the ironworks.

Yet the most inspiriting aspect of the show is that Rhys Miles Thomas, as lestyn, not of quick-footed charm, energy and poignancy from child to man, but seems to embody the whole company effort in his performance. It is not often that one sees an actor so palpably lifted and inspired as he is by the end of the evening.

Impressive work by yet younger actors helps distinguish Terry Hands's own production of Peter Shaffer's Equus. Oliver Ryan is in his first professional. season; he begins his portrayal of the disturbed boy who has just blinded several horses, and whose defiant alienation is expressed by shricking advertising

electric charent passed through his body. He doesn't quite maintain this level, but then, because. of the essentially recapitulatory nature of the play, which seeks to show how he came to this pitch, the character doesn't have much scope to move forward. But in their love scene he and framed of the same material. It Siwan Morris - another assured is an austere but wonderful use and distinctive débutant - of the space, and shows off the ve an edgy and believable halay's strengths to per tenderness. The older head here is the distinguished silver of Frank Grimes, as the boy's psychiatrist. He has the unenviable task of carrying much of

the play's addressed narration a task Shaffer wisely delegated to secondary characters in Amadeus - as well as its philosophising. There is barely space to register his own dissolution as well, but Grimes manages all this with clarity.

However, the main attraction of Equus remains the sheer theatricality of its horrifying central image and of the mimed presence of the borses them- Tickets: 01352 758323

selves. Hands, who has also designed the lighting, and Mark Bailey empty the large stage to place the action on a raked disc on which varying circles and rectangles of light are focused from above. The white "horses" are elevated on to stainless steel buskins and their horses heads

These are early days, but the immediate impact made by these shows (Abigail's Party and Entertaining Mr Sloase are playing in the theatre's smaller space) is hugely encouraging. Under Terry Hands's direction here is a theatre not resened to putting on a this-ther-that series, but forging a long term body of work as a company. Already it looks like a national company for Wales, and I the promise can be fulfilled, a will be a beacon to British theatre

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Playing to full houses by the seaside

Royal Shakespeare Company announced a £1.6m deficit, Allen Saddler assesses the costeffectiveness of the company's new Plymouth residency.

In the week in which the

With less than two weeks to go of the RSC's first Plymouth residency, it's clear that the season has been an outstanding success. Ticket sales at the Theatre Royal are up on the same period last year, when the theatre was presenting what is known as "popular fare". Ninety per cent attendance figures are reported for studio shows in The Drum and at the custom-built new space created within the. Pavilions leisure centre complex. Total audiences for the RSC residency to date number 39,000, mostly coming from the Plymouth region, but with a healthy 5 per cent coming from as far as Wolverhampton and even Stockholm.

Roughly one in 14 Plymouth citizens have seen an RSC performance this season - an amazing response from a low-wage,

high-unemployment region with problems of geography and access. Theatre-going is not made easy in the South-west: when the curtain comes down, there is no public transport out of Plymouth. It is as if the City Fathers have closed the gates and called a 7.30pm curfew. And yet Plymouth boasts the best-attended regional theatre in the country.

The RSC's declared aim that nobody should be more than 45 minutes away from one of its productions is hardly feasible for people living in Penzance or Falmouth, and yet theatre-goers from the far West have driven the hundred miles. And enthusiasts from Barnstaple and Bideford have tacked across Exmoor and Dartmoor to get to the RSC.

It's perhaps all the more remarkable, given the short history of theatre in Plymouth. Twenty-one years ago, when the RSC began its Newcastle residency, there was no theatre in Plymouth - though there was a Plymouth Theatre Company, a shoestring operation (funded by the council and South West Arts) which performed in school halis, drill halis and other adhoc spaces. When the idea of building a new theatre

was first mooted, it was fiercely resisted in the Council Chamber, and only received the nod by a whisker. A barrage of antitheatre propaganda continued while the building took place. Plymouth is no stranger to the

Bard. The Theatre Royal opened in 1982 with Peter Dew's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream; it has played host to Michael Bogdanov's marathon Henrys (three plays in one day) and to a highly experimental Tempest by Anthony Ougvie's Compass Theatre, with Sir Anthony as a world-weary Prospero. But it has not been immersed in the Bard, until now. Of the RSC's offerings,

The Merry Wives of Windsor, starring Leslie Phillips and Susannah York, has been the star attraction, with Much Ado and Hamlet following close behind. But there have also been 80 per cent audiences for Cymbeline, while other difficult plays such as Camino Real and Little Eyolf, in the new Pavilions theatre, have had healthy support. Audiences speak of the quality of Adrian Noble's production. "Turgid," said one of Ibsen's Little Eyolf, "but wonderfully executed."

For an Arts Council-funded

theatre to be hosting the Arts Council-funded RSC is piling subsidy on subsidy. The top seat price in Plymouth is £24 (it's £30 in Newcastle). But, without the subsidy, the price would be nearly three times as high. Giv-

en that the RSC's Plymouth esidency offers many in the South-west our only chanceto see this "national" theatre at first hand, let's hope the conpany's deficit doesn't stop it coming back next year.

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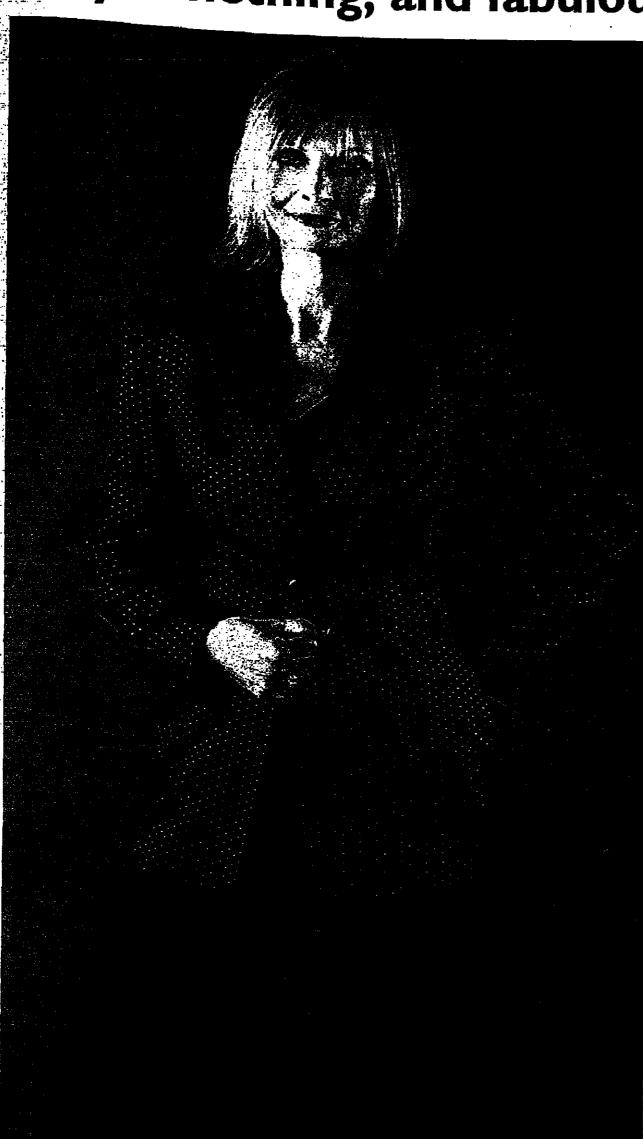
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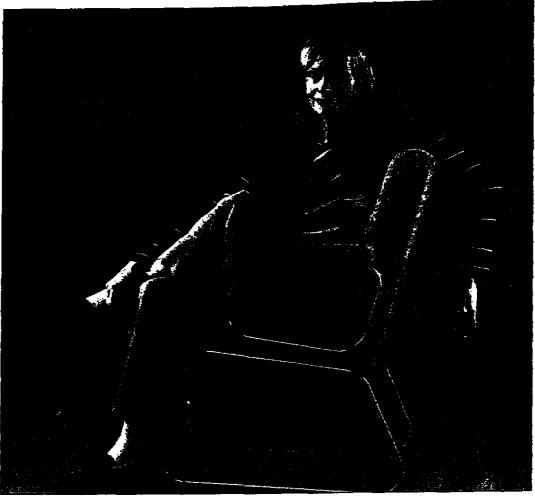
19/FASHION

Fiftysomething, and fabulous in her fashion



Single-breasted glitter jacket, £741, and black satin palazzo pants, £286, both by Pearce Fionda, from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London WI (enquiries, 0171-609 6470)

Photographer: Andrew Lamb. Stylist: Charlie Harrington. Hair and make-up: Helen Bannon at Mandy Coakley



Beige-and-cream-striped top, £99; caramel-coloured textured trousers, £129, both by Episode, 172 Regent Street, London W1, Fenwicks, New Bond Street, London W1, and stores nationwide (enquiries, 0171-439 3561); striped cardigan, £119, by Fenn Wright and Manson, from Fenwicks, as before; buttermilk trouser socks, £3.95 by Hue, from major department stores nationwide (enquiries, 0171-436 4091); tan suede loafers, £95.50, by Russell and Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, London WI, and stores nationwide (enquiries, 0171-629 6903)

Jan de Villeneuve is 54. She was a cover girl in the Seventies and looks great today. We took her through the collections of some British designers who make clothes for women rather than girls.

Jan de Villeneuve turned up for our shoot wearing a long black jacket and matching trousers by Agnès B, a plain white T-shirt and a pair of Converse trainers. She looks as cool and modern as her 18- and 22-year-old daughters. Now that she's in her fifties, she still has the attitude that anything goes.

From the rail of clothes in the studio, we chose two relaxed looks for day by Nicole Farhi and Episode; a versatile and easy-to-wear black dress by Berty Jackson; and for evenings a glamorous tailored jacket and palazzo pants by Pearce Fionda.The Nicole Farhi suit and scarf were closest to her own personal style, and she loved the drama of the Betty Jackson dress, with its free panel tying at the shoulder. The power-shouldered jacket by Pearce Fionda was perhaps most out of character to her own relaxed style. "It's funny to see these shoulder pads coming back in. But as you get older, you tend to wear things that are more comfortable."



Grey trousers, £199, and jacket, £449; dusky pink, beaded camisole, £199, grey chiffon beaded scarf. £149, salmon bead-trimmed cardigan, all by Nicole Farhi, 158 New Bond Street, London WI, (enquiries, 0171-499 8368)



Black jersey dress, £286, by Betty Jackson, 311 Brompton Road, London SW3 (enquiries, 0171-589 7884); black satin shoes, £269, by Michel Perry, available at Pied a Terre, 3i Old Bond Street, London WI

Vivienne Westwood is 56, but don't let that worry you

Forty per cent of the UK's population are 50 and over. As fashion designers increasingly concentrate on youth, women in their prime are quietly perfecting their own style. Moxine Boersma watches money, taste and maturity in magical combination.

ران - المحققية وا

Anne Boersma was 60 this year. She is a grandmother, and a svelte size 12. Her retirement has meant that she can exercise regularly, and she feels comfortable with her own personal

essential Pucci leggings in Italy. In 1994, she wore "the great white shirt". This year, she is commissioning her personal dressmaker to create an anbergine velvet lounge suit.

Based in Northallerton, North Yorkshire, Anne enjoys trips to health farms and regularly shops in Leeds and London London has Whistles and Betty Jackson; Leeds brings Harvey Nichols.

Anne has always enjoyed fashion, but as she gets older she is less content to put up with clothes that aren't exactly right.

"In the Fifties and Sixties I loved buying clothes - Audrey Hepburn skirts and polo necks, Elizabeth Taylor Cleopatra make-up. I wanted items that were a mixture of sophistication and fun. I had a green sports car in the Fifties, and dressed to be noticed in it. Elizabeth Taylor is still a role model.

"It's so much easier for older women to look good now Chic magazine, "For the - I used to think my mother was

old at 30! I lost some interest in fashion as my children were growing up, but then I started to borrow my daughter's clothes from Warehouse. I'm lucky to be able to afford designer clothes now, and a dressmaker. As far as shopping is In 1992, she purchased the concerned, I really love

> Undoubtedly, loyal older customers now have more money to spend on fashion than ever before. Saga Services conducted a survey among its extensive customer database of people aged over 50. According to Phil Loney, sales and marketing director.

"The 'Grey Market' is one of the most rapidly growing sectors. The UK has an ageing population: 18 million people aged over 50, currently representing 40 per cent of the adult population.

By the year 2021 the number of people in this age group will have risen to 23.3 million - 47 per cent of the adult popnlation. Therefore, they are an extremely important group, and represent some of the country's most experienced and discerning consumers."

Ruth Corbett is the editor of woman who wasn't born yes- an image consultant at 70. She more confident they look. If the

customers over 50 have greater spending power.

"From the response we get, the 'grey pound' is incredibly strong. There is a real spending force. These women have always gone for classical clothes, they're not style victims. It's now also hip to have older models. We've just done a feature on mature models."

Marie Claire's fashion director, Sarah Walter, believes that despite extremes in fashion, "the general movement is wearable. People are doing very few minis - they are mainly just back on the knee. Many prominent fashion editors in America are over 50 them-

So, too, are many of our designers. Vivienne Westwood is 56. Christopher di Pietro, her sales and marketing manager, believes her clothes are suited to women of all ages.

"We have a lot of women over 60 as customers. There is a great gamut of styles for them. Some are classic suits in Forties and Fifties styles. The women who come in to buy these used to buy couture in Paris."

early Fifties. Realising that she could not afford designer wear now, she followed the consultant's advice and developed a capsule wardrobe of navy, cream and black. Her daughter Helen, 35, who is a teacher in Worcester, admires her mother's style and believes that the basic wardrobe means she can be more adventurous with accessories and make-up. "My mother may be in her seventies," she says, "but she beat me

to Chanel's Rouge Noir." Olivia Smith is an Essexbased image consultant with many clients over 60. She advises these women to develop a basic wardrobe, and to wear something soft around their

"My oldest client is over 80 years old, and I was recommended to her by her daughter. By 60, women should be developing their own personal style. My advice is to be yourself - 100 per cent."

Anita Pallenberg, Jibby Beane, Tina Turner, Lauren Bacall - are all women who have developed their own personal look that has taken them beyond their middle years in Maria Dalton chose to visit style. The older they get, the sexy glamour," says Fionda.

terday". She agrees that female wore New Look outfits in the micro-mini doesn't suit this season, (and if you have the legs, why shouldn't it?) the suit with shoulder pads will. The good news is that the Eighties Power Look is back, inspired by

sixtysomething Joan Collins. The design duo Pearce Fionda started in business believing their market to be the twenty-to-thirtysomething woman, but they soon latched

on to the reality that, according to Andrew Fionda, she is "older in years but younger in mentality. She may be 50 but she feels 30. There's no way she's going to get into a polyester pleated number."

Lauren Hutton is a shining example. "Fifty-year-old-plus women are more style-obsessed than fashion-obsessed. They've found their own style, and are not interested in fashion gimmicks."

For the designers, age is not a factor. They are aware that more mature women are more likely to be able to afford their clothes than younger women. One of the highlights of their year was dressing 52-year-old Francesca Annis for the Acadettry Awards.

"She wanted drop-dead,



Diary of a divorce



After a couple of weeks of cold turkey on the weeping front, I'm like a reformed alcoholic frightened to open the drinks' cabinet. Not only do I avoid situations that previously had me awash with running mascara in seconds, i am now actually scared of them. So I've become phobic about all sorts of ridiculous details of my life: opening certain curboards where Beloved's clothes once hung is now impossible; aisle number 12 in my local supermarket where his favourite biscuits lurk has to be avoided. But sceing Beloved as a bad habit like nail-biting or smoking 20 a day is beginning to work and the addiction of nearly two decades is starting to recede.

Of course my kids' addiction to their father is lifelong, especially as every two weeks they have another dose of Daddy to keep them hooked. Off they go of a Friday night, sky high with nervousness at seeing Beloved. They return on Sunday after a welter of cinema-going, zoo visits and clothes-buying, full of fury. They positively fizz with all the normal bad behaviour that they have spent the weekend repressing. Because now that Daddy doesn't live with them any more they daren't show him how angry they are with him for leaving in case he stops loving them altogether.

So every other Sunday night my life as punchbag begins. It's the fat lady and the corset principle: you can hold it in in one place but it has to spill out somewhere. Post-Beloved weeks are a war zone, as Bunny and Buster let it all out all over me and each other. I'm no good at peace-making and negotiation. If I'd have been a senior Blue Beret in Bosnia there would be no one left alive there now. So every door in the house is either loose on its hinges or missing a catch, so often are they kicked, slammed and bust open. I am subjected to the kind of creative cheek, defiance and cynicism I thought I would avoid until they hit their teens. After one particularly traumatic evening - when Buster had banged his head rhythmically against the wall for 10 minutes and Bunny had sworn herself to imminent suicide - Buster summed it up for me, "It's like when a mine goes off, Mummy," he said, 'you have to poke the ground all around really hard to make sure it's safe," So that's how it works ... I am the ground that gets poked and pulverised because of the land mine that Beloved let off in their lives. Ref!!!

It's during weeks like this that I wonder who benefits from these jolly weekends with Beloved. I also have unmaternal fantasies about turning up on Beloved and Bonk's doorstep in a few years' time with my by-then teenagedroopy kids. "Darling," I shall say to Beloved, "I know what a hardship being separated from your children has been, so I've decided to stop being selfish and let you have a turn. Here they are. I'm going on a world tour for 10 years. Bye."

OK, yeah, yeah, I know the theory: in-the-long-run-I'llbe-glad-that-I-was-left-with-the-kids. That-my-relationshipwith-them-will-bc-better. That-Beloved-is-quite-likely-todic-a-lonely-old-dog. I know. It's just that sometimes the unfairness of it all gets to me. He jumped off the family bus and left me to drive downhill at a furious pace, with no breaks when I need to sleep or go to the loo. How can you start a new life when you can't even take your eye off the road without going straight for a lamppost?

But really what am I bellyaching about? That he's not here to share the parental burden? When has he ever? He's a victim of the industry in which he works. I know loads of Media Boys whose wives and children operate like single-parent families. My mates and I used to joke about our husbands: "The only way they'll see these kids is if we get divorced." And the bone-chilling bit about that is that it's true. If I put the every-other-weekend scenario on the scales against Beloved's pre-break-up "quality parent time". I know which way they'd tip.

Stevie Morgan

THE INDEPENDENT

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She's strictly an e-mail female



She's been dismissed as an eccentric, a lonely spinster who lives on the Net. But few fly as high - or as often - as Esther Dyson

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Esther Dyson is at the cutting edge, the queen of the Internet. Her ideas make things happen: Bill Clinton knows that, so does Bill Gates. See her CV and she sounds scary as hell. But Ann Treneman had her one-to-one and

she was not afraid.

Esther Dyson is one of those women to whom very important people pay attention. People such as the Bills (Gates and Clinton). Her high-technology conference attracts everyone opinion is enough to make or break any high-tech venture. I was not surprised to hear that after our interview she would be meeting Marjorie Scardino, head of Pearson. What would they talk about? "Oh Marjorie's got a little idea up her sleeve and so we'll talk about that. Last night at dinner we talked about Rupert. In my industry everyone talks about Bill. In yours, it's Rupert."

She smiles and the 46-year-old looks about 10 years younger. I'm not capable of smiling back, however, because I am terrified. This is because, on paper, Esther Dyson is terrifying. The New York Times has said she is the most powerful woman in the Net-erati. Vanity Fair ranks her as one of the 50 most influential people in the New Establishment. When powerful people want to know something about the future and the Internet, they know who to e-mail.

It takes a nervous minute or two to figure out that Esther Dyson is much nicer in person than on paper. True, her father is a brilliant physicist and she went to Harvard at age 16. Titue, she does run a company devoted to emerging technology and writes the industry's most influential newsletter. In addition she logs 250,000 air miles a year, speaks fluent Russian and received a \$1 million advance for her new book. But she also has a handshake that is as light as a feather, a nice way about her and a wicked sense of humour. Her dress sense is supremely relaxed: for our meeting trainers. Actually she didn't wear the trainers for long. Within minutes she has taken them off. She did this in the hotel lobby yesterday and a porter asked her to put them back on.

She thinks this is funny. She laughs as she speaks, rather softly and slowly for a New Yorker. "Yes, I do like to see myself as approachable. Some people are just so scared of me that they don't notice that I am approachable." I pretend I do not know what she is talking about and ask her why they are so scared. "Oh you know. they have read all this stuff about how influential I am." She shrugs. "You know it's my job to be approachable. I represent the little guy. That is what I do. I shine the spotlight on little things whether it is a crackpot new idea or an obscure little country or a cute little company."

At the moment, though, it is her job to sell her book. Release 20 is a

guidebook for the digital world for Everyman (and woman) and Esther is in London for two days to talk about it. Her schedule is jammed. When we met yesterday at 10am she had already been for a swim and answered some of the 67 e-mails she had received since the night before. She is a whirlwind. Last Thursday she had dinner with a friend in California and since then she's been to been to Seattle, New York, Zurich, Kiev and here. I say that she is a living e-mail. "I do travel a lot," she says with another Swimming is the only constant in

her life. Every day, no matter where she is, she ploughs a pool for an hour and she's got the chlorine hair to prove it. "I feel as if I'm getting unkinked somehow. I think about what I did yesterday - how I screwed up or what I did right - and I think of what Γm going to do next." Occasionally she brings pen and paper to poolside and jumps out to jot down a thought or two. "But I don't like to do that. I don't get mystical about it but it's the time for thinking about things overall, in

context, rather than making lists." So how does she actually describe herself? "Well I wrote the book, in part, to have a business card really. Now it could say Esther Dyson, author of Release 2.0. When I cross a border into a country, I have to say what I am. Sometimes I say financier, sometimes I put software writer, sometimes I write author and sometimes entrepreneur. I'm sort of like the Net, I'm decentralised." Esther Dyson sees the Internet as

something that is going to shape every aspect of our lives. "I'm not in love with my machines. I am in love with what they let me do. It's the capabilities that I like." She is an optimist; for her the Net can be used to better our lives, to enhance our relationships and to make the little guy more important. The balance of power will tip more towards the individual and Esther's message is that business, government, education and even parents should be ready for it. Her book is full of great, swooping you see that she really is talking about people, not computers. The reviews have not been ecstatic. "They don't really take on what I am saying. They say I'm being naive and optimistic but they do not even pay attention to ideas like decentralisation. Large corporations and governments are facing an erosion of their power and authority, not to one person or thing in particular but to everything else in general. Everything is much faster and more fluid."

Few people - and even fewer computer types - are able to talk like this and you can see why the Bills of this world seek her out. Perhaps, I say, she should see herself as a philosopher. She grimaces: "I try not to be too pompous. I see myself as a court jester. The important thing is to take other people seriously and not yourself." Esther Dyson is a great fan of sig

files on e-mails. These are automatic signature lines that say who you are, give a physical address and perhaps a motto or two. Her motto is "Always make new mistakes!" She likes people who are big enough to say they were wrong. She freely admits to making many mistakes: in investments, in interviews, in life. "I can be pretty rough on people in my office. You tend to do that to people who can't answer back and fortunately my business partner was able to say: 'Esther, shut up and grow up. Just because

you're unhappy don't inflict it on us."

7 - L

All of this is most interesting because Esther Dyson is often portrayed ideas and little anecdotes that make as a lonely spinster oddball who spends her existence toiling away in a tremendously messy office in New York. She herself has said that she lives on the Net but clearly this is not true. She lives on a plane and spends her life meeting people, talking, networking. She is portrayed as an eccentric who doesn't have a home phone but I notice that she manages to use my mobile pretty adroitly when need be.

She not only speaks for the little guys, she sees the world as they do. When talking of a dinner she was invited to, she added: "They told me I was on table nine and I thought, 'I hope I don't end up with a bunch of dogs'." I laughed and thought that it is doubtful that she ever would.

Release 2.0: A Design for Living in the Digital Age by Esther Dyson is published by Viking (£15.99).

No sex please, we're twenty

This week The Independent has revealed a lot about young Britain, not least about its attitudes to sex. It should be meaningful, they say, or forget it. Did you say forget it? asks Genda Cooper

"It doesn't matter how liberal you are, because by the time we are in our twenties we are fed up with meaningless sex." Damian Julienne, 19, from Birkenhead, told the 2020 Vision survey - the biggest ever conducted of young people - yesterday.

Oh really? What are we to make of the youth of today? That they'd rather be sitting quietly at home revising for exams, in a stable relationship, and saving for their pension rather than attending drug-crazed orgies and being gratuitously rude to their parents? So they say.

"Huh, these ungrateful teenagers. Meaningless sex? Chance would be a fine thing," snorted one colleague yesterday. It seems that today's youth are more responsible than their forebears. They - and I blame it on their extensive sex education, which tells them all they need to know about sex so early in life that they end up agreeing not with the late poet laureate John Betjeman (who said his only regret was that he hadri't had more sex) but with the fourth earl of Chesterfield, who thought that "the pleasure is momentary, the position ridiculous and the expense damnable".

Actually that's a bit unfair on Damian and pals who do not condemn sex per se. ("My friend's got three kids and he's got another on the way. But since he turned 17, he's settled down with his girifriend. I suppose that's what we all want to do.") But you just have to understand that you are only allowed to have sex if it's



meaningful. Erica Jong zip it up. But what is meaningless sex? Shut up, the person at the back who said "wonderful". But it does tempt one to misquote Woody Allen, "Is sex meaningless? Only if it's done right."

Of course one of the reasons that has been put forward as to why the British are so coy about defining - or achieving - meaningless sex is just the fact that probably sounds far more ex-

they are no good at it. Talking about the new American film One Night Stand (you get the idea what it's about), the Evening Standard concluded yesterday that the British answer to it was Brief Encounter - the film about extra-marital sex in which, er, no extra-marital sex takes place. Mind you, there are a lot of trains instead - which

citing to the average man than the hassles of an affair.

Asking people what meaningless sex is like is a bit like enquiring about headlice. Everyone knows a friend who's had it but, no, they've never had it themselves. But that doesn't mean they don't think they know what it is. Intensive research suggests the following: that it's when you a) weren't in love with the person you slept with (woman's definition); b) couldn't remember her name the next day (man's definition); c) not perfect but better than nothing (desperate man's definition),

But is that good enough in the post-Freudian age? Keith Beach, a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist, brings other insights to bear: "Every aspect of behaviour has a meaning. Freud taught us that things which appear to have no meaning and were not connected were always connected in the human mind... So we may just imagine that it's physical gratification or psychological gratification but I really think we have to ask what we mean by meaningful. Or, in-

deed, what we mean by sex." Er, right. But there's meaningful and meaningful. The young Damian may think it's something that can only happen in a long-term relationship and it's an expression of intimacy and love.

But Madeleine St John knows about long-term relationships and how they can offer meaningless sex, but big time. In her Booker-shortlisted book, The Essence of the Thing, she describes how Jonathan tells his live-in partner Nicola one Thursday that it's over and . he wants them to split up. Nicola is aghast. "Can you remember," she says, "when you last made love to me? ... last Monday night. Three nights be-. fore you told me to get on my bike. Which means that in only three days, just three days..." "Oh that," Jonathan replies, "that meant nothing."

21/OBITUARIES

Professor Clifford Wilson

Clifford Wilson, physician: born 27 January 1906; Professor of Medicine, London University (at the London Hospital) 1946-71 (Emeritus), Dean of the Faculty of Medicine 1968-71: Director, Medical Unit, London Hospital 1946-71; President, Renal Association 1963-64; married 1936 Kathleen Hebden (one son, one daughter); died 10 November 1997,

Clifford Wilson was Professor of Medicine at the London Hospital Medical College for 25 years from 1946 and played a major role in the post-war period in the conversion of London medical schools into proper university institutes. He also made seminal advances in the understanding of kidney disease and its relation to high blood pressure and to diabetes.

Behind these bare facts lies the history of a highly reserved but profoundly committed individual, whose thinking arose from a life-long interest in political and moral philosophy. Born in 1906 into a Baptist family, his academic potential first manifested itself in classics. but he eventually won the Brackenbury scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford, on the basis of his performance in chemistry, to which he had been attracted whilst working as a laboratory technician in his spare time at the Heath School. Halifax. At Balliol, he was much influenced by his tutor Harold Hartley, who supported him when he decided to change from Chemistry to Medicine.

Wilson remained throughout his life immensely proud of his Calliol connection, and was prone to recall his intellectual origins to those of his junious less familiar with the academic preeminence of that institution. were attached, needed to a

He took a First in Natural Sciences in 1928 and completed his clinical and junior medical training at the London Hospital by 1934. He then obtained a Rockefeller Travelling Fellowship to Harvard, There, in 1934, he met the pathologist Paul Kimmelstiel and with him made the discovery of the unique lesion in the kidneys of long-standing diabetics which has since then borne their joint names

Academic medicine had been pioneered at the London by Sir Arthur Ellis, and in 1938 Wilson became his Assistant Director. When, at the beginning of the Second World War, the medical school had to be dispersed amongst hospitals outside London, he took charge of the teaching at Billericay Hospital, where he developed a programme designed to introduce new clinical students to patients and to teach them the elements of clinical history-taking and examination. The core of this part of the course has essentially remained unchanged, simply because no-one seems to be able to better it. Wilson was in the Medical Research Section of the RAMC till 1945, where he played an important part in dealing with the outbreaks of infectious hepatitis which were so prevalent in the army.

to the London in 1946, Ellis had moved to Oxford, and Wilson succeeded him as Professor of Medicine. Then began what was to become the political battle of his life. In 1944 the Goodenough Committee had recommended that the medical school course should provide the student with a university education on broad and liberal lines. This meant that the apprenticeship system, by which students imbibed their trade by osmosis from the eminent doctors to whom they

By the time Wilson returned

large extent to be replaced by a system of training in principles, problem-solving, and habits of learning which would equip them for a lifetime of practice in a continually changing scene - rather than simply to train them to become safe house officers on graduation.

There was resistance to these ideas amongst teaching hospital staff, in the royal colleges and, indeed, in some universities. Wilson was a formidable leader in the battle to achieve proper status and influence of the university in medical schools, because he was prepared to fight for what he felt to be the right course, even at the expense of making enemies. The battle was not really won till the late 1960s, with the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on Medical Education. Though all this may seem obvious now, Wilson's successors and the medical students of today have enormous reason for gratitude to him that these matters are no longer issues. As his ideas gained support, he was elected to senior roles in medicine on a wider stage. He was Senior Vice-President and Senior Censor of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1967-68 and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in London University from 1968 until 1971.

In the two decades after his appointment to the Chair of Medicine in 1946, Wilson and his junior academic colleagues, Jack Ledingham and Michael Floyer, and the pathologist Frank Byrom, together worked out much of the mechanism of the curious relationship between the kidneys and blood pressure and thereby established many of the principles upon which the modern treatments of hypertension and kidney disease are based. He



Wilson holding forth to students on kidney disease in a picture by John Ward

provided an academic home for many aspiring clinical scientists. of a wide range of interests, and gave them their head, relieving them of the worry of funding their research. He was a brilliant scientific critic and taught us all how to write papers. Furthermore, be inspired a tradition of service and commitment - you stayed with the job till it was done, and especially if it involved patients.

Clifford Wilson looked immensely distinguished - which he was. This and his natural reserve made him appear a little unapproachable, which entirely belied his nature. He was a man of deeply and passionately held convictions, which tended only to be expressed sparsely and apparently by chance. He was, in fact, exceptionally good with both patients and students: there is a famous paint-

ing of him by John Ward, holding forth to students on the subject of kidney disease.

Contrary to expectation, on his retirement in 1971, Clifford Wilson played no further role in medical affairs, but retreated to his country home. He probably felt that his family deserved this after his long years of time-consuming medicoacademic politics.

- R.D. Cohen

Anthony Foord

Anthony Herbert Foord, wartime pilot and moneybroker: born Ewell, Surrey 14 February 1915; DFC 1941; married 1957 Judith Greenacre (one son, thre daughters); died Snape, Suffolk 24 October 1997.

On 24 October, with faultless timing, Anthony Foord died at 82 from a heart attack during the interval in a Haydn and Britten concert he was greatly enjoying at Snare Maltings.

Precision was one of the valuable characteristics that marked Foord's long and fruitful life. The entries in his RAF Pilot's Logbook, between April and August 1941, describe in the briefest matter-of-fact way the outward and homeward events during 27 raids into Hitler's Europe, from all of which he and his crew returned unscathed in their often flak-scarred Wellington. They show that this tall, genial, deeply generous man had qualities of endurance, courage and unwavering determination.

These regularly resurfaced in his support of everything worthwhile and civilised in local affairs in Suffolk, where he moved in 1962: in 10 years as a county councillor, as Chairman of the Suffolk Preservation Society, in his constant encouragement of the new Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich, and of the work of the Britten-Pears School and the Aldeburgh Foundation's education department. There was nothing "parochial" about Tony Foord's services to Suffolk.

After Harrow he worked at the Law Society exams in 1938, but decided (in the spirit of Patrick Leigh Fermor's A Time of Gifts) to use a small legacy to see Europe. He studied German in a monastery, and at Bayreuth saw the Führer.

He was an early member of Glyndebourne: in June 1938, he



Foord: services to Suffolk

corresponded with John Christie about the chances of becoming a manager there. Christie thought no Englishman could aspire to such a post. Foord left Switzerland on the last train, reaching London on the

day Chamberlain declared war. By the time he had trained as a fighter pilot, the Battle of Britain had been won, but the Blitz was raging. On 3 September 1940. Churchill told the Cabinet, "The bombers alone provide the means of victory", and, thinking of Rotterdam, and London, they made the understandable but erroneous "total war" assumption that "the civilian population around the target areas must be made to feel the weight of war". Foord's logbook faithfully illustrates the

point from his own operations. the first of which was on Kiel on 7 April 1941. "Huge fires: defences apparently exhausted." His rear gunner's log added: Entire area in flames, which was successfully bombed."

In his 15th operation, over Essen, his plane was very badly hit, and he crash-landed at Stradishall, his first serious impact on Suffolk. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for gallantry and devotion to duty. Later he served as Liaison Officer with a Czech bomber squadron, was promoted Squadron Leader, and was twice mentioned in despatches.

After the war, he practised in Westminster as a solicitor, with work in Town and Country Planning, and Rent Restriction. In 1948, he was adopted as Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for Brixton, enjoyed getting to know the constituency, but failed to win it. He then joined the moneybrokers Long, Till and Colvin. Their business took off, partly because Foord ran it so well and partly because this was the right time, when R.A. Butler was giving local authorities powers to raise money in the City, and more or less instructing them to do so.

In the City, in 1947, Foord became a Liveryman in the Turners' Company. He later, in 1970, distinguished himself as its Master. He was punctiliousness in supporting the craft and its charities, supplying wood and lathes to the disabled, and working with engineers in the modern application of the craft.

In 1957, he married Judith Greenacre, whose family lived at Rendham in Suffolk. When they moved to live in Nettlestead, most of his energies were switched to the county. On the East Suffolk County Council, he was listened to as "a sound financial brain". When they joined the Suffolk Preservation Society, he and Judith immediately took part in making visual surveys of the town centres and in scheduling listed buildings; as the society's chairman in the crucial years 1973-76, he helped organise watchdogs in the new District Planning Committees and established the society's first full-time salaried director.

He also hived off, as a separate group, the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. In aid of this. he and his wife, with John and Julia Henniker, conceived and planned the annual sponsored bike-rides round the county's churches and chapels - Suffolk has a high density of medieval churches. Last September, Suffolk cyclists in one day raised a record £132,000; they have been a source of valuable emulation

among other counties. Foord's Suffolk commitments never slackened, but nor did he reduce his devotion to opera at Glyndebourne, for instance, or to Assisi. Ten years ago, his feeling for the Catholic religion revived, and he took instruction from the local Franciscan brothers. He regularly visited Assisi, and at the time of his death was distressed by the news of the destructive earth tremors there.

Norman Scarfe

Rainer

Rainer Ptacek, guitarist, singer, songwriter: born East Berlin 7 June 1951: married Patti Keating (two sons, one daughter); died Tucson, Arizona 12 November 1997.

The talent of some musicians can only be measured by the influence they've had on others. The guitarist and singer Rainer had a unique rootsy, melancholic, bluesy style and was a great favourite of Robert Plant. the ZZ Top guitarist Billy Gibbons and the country singer Emmylou Harris. His unusual guitar playing, as well as his beartfelt personal lyrics, recorded simply under his first name Rainer, made him a cult figure in Europe.

His father was a Czech soldier who met his German mother in East Berlin. Rainer Ptacek was born in 1951; three years later, his parents speaked to West Berlin before the wall went up and then emigrated to America

BIRTHS.

MARRIAGES

& DEATHS

DOUGLAS: Doris, peacefully, on 16
November, aged 95 years, in the kind
care of Rusthall Lodge and her
friend Maria, beloved sister of RoyFuneral Service to take place on Tuesday 25 November, 11am, at Timbridge
With Crematorium Chapel, No flow-

HOPKINS: Emer Sylvin Hopkins, of

HOPKINS: Emer Sylvin Hopkins, of Old Castle House. Canterbury, formerly of Castlebar, Co Mayo, died peacefully on 18 November 1997 in hospital in Canterbury, following a short illness. The last member of the Robbins family. Requiem Mass at 12 nova, at 5t Thomas's Church, Canterbury on Wednesday 26 November

testary on Wednesday 26 November 1997 followed by cremation at Busham Crematorium. Flowers to Care to Care to Mariana Bond Com-

C.W. Lyons, 70 Military Road, Can-

terbury, Donations to Vincent Paul Society, St. Thomas's Church, Bur-

MARRAGES & DEATHS (Births,

rial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Hemorism) should be sent in writ-

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DEATHS

ers by request.

in 1956. They settled in Chicago and Rainer attended the Saint Rita High School; he first discovered the blues through the music of white artists. He would later recall "being influenced by English blues bands - Fleetwood Mac, John Mayall, the Rolling Stones. Then, of course, you start reading where these songs were taken from and everything kind of pointed back to Robert Johnson."

Drifting west, Rainer ended up in Tucson, Arizona, where he drove cabs and worked as a janitor and cabinet maker. In 1972, he finally found a dream job repairing guitars in a Tucson music shop named, ironically enough, the Chicago Music Shop. He occasionally played with local groups like the rambling, swampy Giant Sand, with Howe Gelb as lead singer.

Soon Rainer was lending his guitar to Gelb's countrified and fictitious spin-off group The Band Of Blacky Ranchette, on albums including Heartland

Mr Stephen Baldock, High Master, St Paul's School, 53; M Raymond Blanc, chef and restaurateur, 48; Mr Charles Falconer QC, Solicitor Gen-eral, 46; Miss Maeve Fort, High Commissioner to South Africa, 57;

Miss Jodie Foster, actress, 35; Miss Kathleen Halpin, former Chief Ad-ministrator, WRVS, 94; Baroness

Jeger, former MP, 82; Professo

James Johnson, geographer, 67; Mr Calvin Klein, fashion designer, 55;

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, for-

mer chief of the Naval Staff, 77; Mr

David Lloyd-Jones, opera director, 63; Air Marshal Sir Kenneth Porter,

85; Miss Kathleen Quinlan, actress

43: Mr Nick St Anbyn MP, 42; Miss Auriol Sinclair, National Hunt train-

er. 79; Dr Robert C. Smith, Vice-

Chancellor, Kingston University, 62,

Mr Dennis Taylor, snooker player, 48;

The Very Rev Michael Till, Dean of

Winchester, 62: Dame Margaret

Turner-Warwick, former president,

Births: Charles I, King of England

and Scotland, 1600; Anton Wal-

brook (Adolf Wohlbruck), actor,

1900; Tommy Dursey, trombonist and

bandleader, 1905; Indira Gandhi,

Royal College of Physicians, 73.

Anniversaries

Birthdays

(1986). In 1984, Rainer also formed Das Combo. The Rolling Stone journalist Kurt Loder raved about The Mush Mind Blues album and in 1986, Making Waves, a British label. issued Barefoot Rock With Rainer And Das Combo. Rainer's first visit to the UK the same year was as part of a package tour featuring Giant Sand and The Band Of Blacky Ranchette



Rainer: rootsy bluesy style Photograph: Bill Carter

es was opened for carriages,

1769; Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gertysburg address, 1863; Rainier III

was sworn in as 30th ruling prince of Monaco, 1949. Today is the Feast

Lectures

London WC1).

son and Delilah", 1pm.

alongside Das Combo, with seven musicians rotating in various permutations to make up all three bands. However, Rainer's unique guitar style, using a thumb-pick

and playing fingerstyle, was better showcased on 1991's Worried Spirits, a solo effort ("Dazzling", said the Guardian; "Startling", enthused the New Musical Express). He had started incorporating natural sounds and tape loops and, on his second UK visit, really hit a chord with lovers of the languid guitar styles of J.J. Cale and Ry Cooder. He appeared with his trademark Dobro and National steel guitar on Radio 4's Midweek, recorded a soundtrack for The Fire Beetle. a BBC2 feature film, toured the UK with Rory Gallagher and then played throughout Europe, even appearing in Prague and visiting the village home of his ancestors.

In the mid-Eighties, Rainer had hooked up with ZZ Top guitarist Billy Gibbons for some

A broad common-sense

Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lloyd of

November 1997

Berwick Lord Hope of Craighead.

Lord Clyde and Lord Saville) 13 -

The House of Lords allowed

the appellant, but varied the or-

Victoria Williams; but, in Febmysterious recordings. Dusted down, given a new sheen and ruary 1996, he crashed his mofinally released in 1993, The torbike in Tucson. He broke his Texas Tapes created something clavicle, but doctors were rather of a stir among the cognoscenmore concerned about a brain ti trying to second-guess the scan they'd done; he was diagnosed as having a large, inopidentity of Rainer's illustrious sidekick (the Justis Walkert erable brain tumour. Following pseudonym previously used by intensive chemotherapy, the Gibbons was the giveaway). The same year. Robert Plant drafted Rainer for part of the sessions which became the Fate

appeared as a bonus track on the "29 Palms" single. haunting, ethereal Noctumes in his local San Pedro Chapel. Making full use of the setting and a sample pedal, the resulting album chimed in well with ambient and new age tendencies. Things were looking up for Rainer, who in 1995 worked

cancer was thought to have gone into remission. However. Rainer's medical bills had reached a reported \$250,000. Howe Gelb offered to help Of Nations album, Rainer's and decided to emulate the guest appearance was especially impressive on an acoustic "Sweet Relief" albums which cover of the Led Zeppelin clashad already supported performers like Victoria Williams sic "Whole Lotta Love", which and Vic Chesnutt through trying times, with other artists covering their songs. Once Robert Plant and Atlantic Records

In 1994. Rainer recorded the with the US singer-songwriter

and was released in the United States in August. - Pierre Perrone

came on board. The Inner

Flame project snowballed, se-

cured the involvement of Em-

mylou Harris. Jonathan

Richman, and Evan Dando,

LAW REPORT: 19 NOVEMBER 1997

stateswoman, 1917. Deaths: Nicolas Poussin, painter, 1665; Franz Peter Schubert, composer, 1828; Elizabeth Taylor, novelist, 1975. On this day: Blackfriars Bridge across the Theorems. Common-sense approach should be adopted by court

Day of St Barlaam of Antioch, St Erapproach should be adopted ourga and St Nerses L to the question whether actions were related for the purposes of an application to National Gallery: Lynda Stephens, "Rmptresses (iii): Mantegna, Samstay proceedings or to decline jurisdiction pursuant to the provisions of article 22 Gresham College: Professor Tom of the Brussels Convention. Cannon, "Entrepreneurs - idiots sa-Sarrio SA v Kuwait Investment vants", 1pm (at Barnard's Inn Hall, Authority: House of Lords (Lord London EC1): Professor Ian Stew-

King's College London, London WC1: Professor Peter Gibbins, "Cyberontology", 5.15pm. Loughborough University: Professor Vladimir Babitsky, "Nonlinear Dynamics", 4.30pm. Royal Institution of Great Britain, London W1: Sir Roger Penrose

"Mysteries of Quantum Physics:

puzzle or paradox?", 1pm.

art, "Beyond the Four Colour The-

orem", 5.30pm (at Kingsway College,

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEPIEN 13

The Queen and The Dutes of Edinburgh attend a handron at Qualdhail, London EC., hosted by the Lord Mayor and Comporation of London, to the Lord Mayor and Comporation of London, to the Lord Mayor and Comporation of London, to the Lordon ST, thousand at the Royal Feating and attend a Cash Country at the Royal Feating that London ST, thousand the Royal Feating the Lordon ST, thousand the states. The Dutes of Edinburgh, Parma and Trustee, chairs a marriag of the musters of the Dutes of Edinburgh's Award at Brekingham Palace. The Prince of Wales stremth a reception for the launch of the

condition's Bobby Appeal at St re. The Duley of Kant, President, the Council, attends the annual confer-tion of Civil Engineers, London SW1. Changing of the Guard
The Honschold Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Gaards. Ham let Bartillon The Royal Regiment of Walter Strong Law of the Changing Capatric Strong Capatric Capatric

jurisdiction. The respondent, a Spanish company, had started proceedings in Spain against the appellant, a Kuwaiti legal entity, and others. While those proceedings were pending the respondent had also started English proceedings against the appellant.

Nicholas Chambers QC, Andrew Popplewell QC and Paul Wright (Baker & McKenzie) for the appellant: Peter Goldsmith QC, Charles Hollander and Adrian Briggs (Linklaters & Paines) for the respondent.

diction if the law of that court per-

Lord Saville said that article the appeal of Kuwait Investment Authority against the de-22 of the Brussels Convention was in the following terms: cision of the Court of Appeal, which had lifted a stay imposed Where related actions are brought in the courts of different contractunder the provisions of article ing states, any court other than the 22 of the amended Brussels court first seised may, while the ac-Convention (incorporated into tions are pending at first instance, English law by the Civil Jurisstay its proceedings. diction and Judgments Act A court other than the court first seised may also, on the application 1982) of English proceedings of one of the parties, decline jurisbrought by Sarrio SA against

der for a stay to one declining mits the consolidation of related actions and the court first seised has iurisdiction over both actions. For the purposes of this article, actions are deemed to be related

> ed that it is expedient to hear and determine them together to avoid the risk of irreconcilable judgments resulting from separate proceedings. The essential dispute between the parties was whether

where they are so closely connect-

the actions were related, and the debate had concentrated on whether there was a risk of irreconcilable judgments resulting from the two sets of proceedings. In his judgment in the

Court of Appeal, Evans IJ had considered the approach of the European Court (including the opinion of the Advocate General) in The Maciej Rataj [1994] ECR 1-5439, and had concluded that the issues which must be considered in order to decide whether or not there was a risk of irreconcilable

those facts necessary to establish a cause of action.

On that basis, Evans LJ had concluded that there was no risk of irreconcilable judgments. Article 22 could not, however, be interpreted or applied in that way. There was nothing in the opinion of the Advocate General or in the judgment in The Maciej Rataj which lent support to the suggestion that a distinction should be drawn between those cause of action and other facts and matters on which conflicting decisions might arise.

On the contrary, the case seemed to lead to the opposite conclusion, the court having of article 22 was to improve co-ordination of the exercise of iudicial functions within the Community and to avoid conflicting and contradictory decijudgments were the primary is- sions, and having rejected the appeal would be allowed. sues which were limited to argument that the phrase

"irreconcilable differences" should be interpreted so as to confine it to cases where the decisions would have mutually ex-

clusive legal consequences. Furthermore, the words of the article itself militated against the suggested limitation, and to adopt that limitation would in truth be to give the phrase "related actions" a special "English" meaning. That would be contrary to what the court had decided in facts necessary to establish a The Maciej Rataj, where it was pointed out that since the phrase did not have the same meaning in all the member states, it was necessary to give it an independent interpretation.

There should, therefore, be emphasised that the objective a broad common-sense approach to the question whether the actions in question were related. That seemed to have been the approach adopted by the judge at first instance. The

- Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



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At first glance the slaughter in Luxor seems triumphant vindication of the Huntington thesis. A few years ago, Professor Samuel of that name, of Harvard University, wrote a celebrated book predicting that after the demise of Communism, conflicts would be generated by clashes between civilisations, first and foremost between the Christian West and Islam. And now 58 Swiss, German, British and Japanese tourists have been gunned down by Islamic fundamentalists in the Valley of the Kings. just when the Arab world is seething at America's refusal to bring Israel to heel, and the firepower of USS Nimitz and George Washington is pointed squarely in the direction of Saddam Hussein. Are these not precursors of still worse to come? The short answer is: not necessarily.

Undoubtedly, the mood in the Arab world is as combustible as at any time since the last Arab-Israeli war. But Islamic fundamentalism is caused not by the excesses of Zionism but by the failings of the societies in which it has taken root - from

Algeria to Afghanistan by way, most visibly, of Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. These failings include poor economic performance and the concentration of wealth in a few hands, manifest corruption and the long-standing inability of most Arab governments to respond to the will of their peoples. Then there is the generational chasm. Across the region the same men have been in power for decades, backed by more or less overt military regimes. Take Colonel Ghaddafi, among the youngest of them; he has ruled Libya for 28 years. Beneath this gerontocracy, however, bubbles a cauldron of youth. More than half the region's population is under 18, far less impressed than their elders by Islam's traditions of respect and deference to those in authority. And their economic prospects are grim. In Egypt itself, for instance, there are 2 million unemployed graduates. Once Nasser's Arab nationalism or Arab socialism would

have provided solace. But these move-

ments failed, while communism, that oth-

er refuge for the disaffected, has been terminally discredited. Small wonder the appeal of Islamic fundamentalism.

To these grievances must be added a sense of inferiority - that Islam is in a siding of history, and that the region counts only because of oil and gas. Oil, the Arab world knows full well, was why America put together the coalition to drive Saddam Hussein from Kuwait. And the crushing defeat he suffered, though welcomed at the time by most of the Arab world, has left its own legacy of impotence and humiliation. And here certainly, the Israel factor is important, as Saddam's prestige begins to recover. Why, it is legitimately asked, is he held to the letter of every UN resolution and his suffering people held to the rack of sanctions, while Israel is allowed to ignore similar resolutions, not to mention the Oslo accords, with impunity?

But Israel is only a pretext - or rather a painful scab on a body riddled with a very different disease. The temptation to see the scab as manifestation of the underlying illness is naturally very strong, and its removal undoubtedly would temporarily reduce the patient's fever. But even a lasting settlement of the Palestinian question will not put the Arab world lastingly to rights. That Islam must do itself.

Curiously perhaps, the most farsighted of Arab statesmen have been two of the oldest of its rulers, the King, rivisem of Jordan and Hassan of Morocco, who have partly opened their political systems to admit some elements of opposition. Otherwise, however, a vicious and depressing cycle is setting in. Before Monday's atrocity, Islamic fundamentalism seemed on the ebb in Egypt, and one faction at least was angling for a ceasefire. But these hopes have now been dashed, as was surely the intention of the perpetrators of the massacre. No matter that the overwhelming majority of Egyptians have reacted with horror and outrage to what has happened. President Mubarak has little choice but to respond to the violence of terrorists with the violence of the state. But

repression will only breed more resentment, more despair and more violence. The West in turn will be less inclined than ever to offer the investments and long-term commitment which might help turn the economic tide. Israel's argument that it is the one safe bet in a dangerous region will be more persuasive than ever.

And here we come back to the notion of democracy - not the precise Western model of democracy necessarily, but some mechanism to make regimes more responsive to their subjects. Only in this way will Arab acceptance of Israel be fully legitimised. Even more important, the regimes will be under genuine pressure to provide their people with a decent level (). of prosperity and social justice - instead of masking their shortcomings by blaming everything on Israel and the West. If so, then the Islamic countries may be able to separate religion and politics, and create the stable secular institutions they so badly need. But as Luxor shows, the immediate prospects are bleak indeed.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Battle for the BBC

Sir: Rob Brown is right about the battle "for the hearts and minds" of the British viewing public as the digital TV revolution develops (Media, 17 November). The BBC will maintain the loyalty of viewers as long as it shows the betterquality, home-made, peak-time programmes it is renowned for.

Readers may care to reflect upon the European Parliament's work in ensuring that the BBC has the means to fight this battle without constraint. The TV Without Frontiers directive insists that broadcasters ensure that 51 per cent of output is of EU origin and of high quality. If this directive is properly implemented, then the BBC will not be forced to "dumb down" and show cheap imported programmes to compete with new

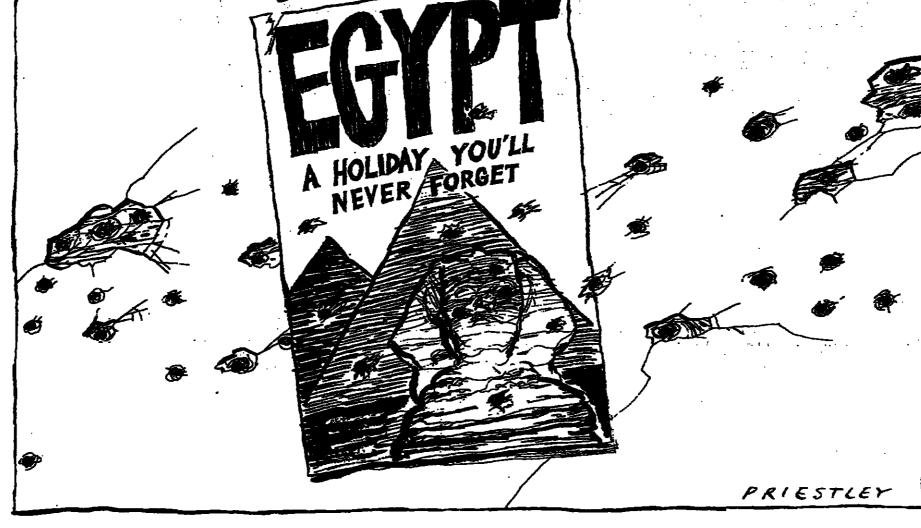
These channels should be obliged to comply quickly in the UK (the directive allows new channels three years to reach 51 per cent). Children's TV illustrates what is at stake for our culture. This month, the Broadcasting Standards Commission voiced alarm at the predominance of low-quality imported cartoons on cable and satellite channels and the impact that this is having on terrestrial stations. This directive offers a solution to this problem.

In addition, following the European Parliament's adoption of my report on the future of Public Service Broadcasters (PSBs), the Amsterdam treaty contains a protocol that protects PSBs from legal attack relating to "unfair" state aid.

The BBC has nothing to fear, and it has no excuses for any decline in standards. CAROLE TONGUE MEP (London E, Lab) Ilford, Essex

Sir: Your headline "BBC should be killed off, says Channel 5 chief" (13 November) is the opposite of what I said in my speech. I strongly support the BBC: it is the licence fee I object to, and the notion that the two are inextricably linked is a mistake too often made, not least by the BBC's governors and management.

I have been advocating abolition of the compulsory licence fee for 14 years - long before I had anything to do with BSkyB - precisely because I



think it is the biggest obstacle to a brilliant future for the BBC.

The BBC needs to transform its relationship with the viewer, reduce the cost of its basic services to the poorest households, increase its overall revenue, add to the range of its channels and end the growing conflict between its revenue sources: all that can be achieved by switching to subscription funding, but by no other means. DAVID ELSTEIN Chief Executive Channel 5 Broadcasting

London WC2

Redesigned churches

Sir: Every generation has made changes inside church buildings. If Colin Wheeler (article, 13 November; letters, 15 November) looks at the interior, rather than the 500-year-old exterior walls of his parish church, he

will see evidence of this.

Pews were generally intro-

duced in the 17th century, no doubt to cries of "You're cluttering up the lovely space, pandering to softies who can't stand up for a couple of hours." A hundred years ago the massive Georgian pulpit was pushed to one side and a rood screen and reredos erected (or, if you were lucky, the medieval

one restored). These changes reflect changes in theology of worship and our understanding of the ecclesia - the Christian community meeting in worship. Today there is a preference for seats in a semi-circle round a nave altar; rather than worshipping a God out there, we feel it better to worship a God

in the midst of us. Incidentally, it is easier to worship God or appreciate the architectural merits of a building if you're not bursting for a pee. Two members of the congregation at the church where I worship find it necessary to

visit the loo half-way through the service (because of medical conditions). I am glad there are toilet facilities, because it is more important that they can be with us Sunday by Sunday than that Mr Wheeler's aesthetic sensibilities might be offended.

I am neither one of the old ladies nor the T-shirted trendies to whom Mr Wheeler disparagingly refers, but an ordinary member of a congregation who prefers a living centre of worship and evangelism to a museum for dead art. ALAN D SKYES Halifax, West Yorkshire

BSE inquiry

Sir: Dr Stephen Dealler (letters, 15 November) accurately catalogued the errors that led to the BSE crisis. The present government was not in power when the crucial mistakes were made. Several Labour MPs

challenged government policy at the time.

A public inquiry will draw a line under the issue and ensure that the current administration does not become associated with the failings that led to the crisis. For the sake of those who have lost family members to new variant CID, I hope the Government will act sooner rather than later. MAUREEN TREADWELL Chilbolton, Hampshire

Sir: Dr Stephen Dealler is entitled to his views on the inadequacy or otherwise of the consultation process involved in the BSE problem, but he is quite wrong to state that "pharmaceutical companies were advised not to research methods

of treatment". Decisions by pharmaceutical companies to seek to develop new therapeutic approaches to any disease are a strategic matter for them alone. No external

body advises companies not to carry out research.

The pharmaceutical industry and the Medical Research Council took the lead earlier this year to meet and discuss how therapeutic advances made by the industry in other related fields, such as Alzheimer's disease, could be adopted. Dr JEFF KIPLING Director of Science and

Technology The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry London SWI

Luxor massacre

Sir: As a Muslim, may I add my condemnation to the many that have been voiced about the slaughter in Egypt on Monday. There can be no excuse for it.

However, this, sadly, might continue to be the case so long as channels for the peaceful expression of political views are denied by the Egyptian govitish in war

Sir: M A Martin (letter, 14 November) does not wear a poppy to honour the dead of two world wars. He takes narrow political views rather than generous ones.

In the Second World War the Irish Free State never declared war on Germany and throughout remained a threat to British survival. The Royal Navy was denied use of Irish ports while German U-boats sailed in Irish waters to attack our life-saving convoys of food and arms. As British cities were devastated by German bombs the lights of Dublin provided a beacon for C'erman bombers. particularly to Merseyside and Giasgow.

I met and was friends with many southern I ishmen in the British Army in the war, but it is true that most of them were mercenaries, rather than ideological soldiers. JOHN ALDERSON ... Ottery St Mary, Devon.

Sir: M A Martin says there were more "southern" than "northern" Irish battalions in the Battle of the Somme. The figures are 13 battalions from "southern" regiments and 25 from "northern". C T RASON

Biblical beards

Sir: At the risk of splitting hairs, might I point out to the erudite Mr Jacobson (letter, 14 November) that the Gospel accounts of the passion of Jesus record that he was scourged (and so facilitated the early Christian application to him of Isaiah 50:6 - "I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard.") but do not mention

that his beard was pulled out. Arguments from silence are never convincing, but at first blush this clearly favours the view that Jesus was cleanshaven.

The Rev PETER HATTON Droitwich, Worcestershire

Because of a production error, the first edition of Monday's 'Independent' carried a reprint of letters that had appeared last Friday. We apologise to the minority of readers who received that edition.

The new labours of Hercules – 12 ways to restore the voters' faith



MILES KINGTON

When you go to see a Disney film you don't just see clean-cut heroes and fast action, you see a story which is noticeably different from the original as well. Interestingly, the same is true of our new Labour government, where there is a lot of clean-cutness and where the truth changes subtly the whole

So why not combine the two? And that's exactly what we have done today in a great new story called: HERCULES: NEW LABOURS!

Once upon a time there was a hero called Hercules who was clean-cut and young and strong and, above all, squeaky clean, and he went to the Oracle and said, "Oracle, I have come for your help, because I want to

make this land prosperous, and fair and equal, and I wish to root out disparity and unfairness, and I want to make the whole of Europe fair and equal, and prosperous, and I pledge that I shall not rest until ..."

And the Oracle said: "Yes, yes, yes, you don't have to tell me all this, I can read minds you know. I wouldn't have got this far if I couldn't read minds, it saves a lot of time, especially with politicians. So what can I do for you?"

"Well," said Hercules, "it's a long story, but I accepted some money from someone and it has got me in trouble." "Give back the money," said

the Oracle. "I have done that, and I am

"Then you must do 12 great tasks and then people will forgive you."

"Gladly," said Hercules, smiling, for he always smiled even when unhappy. "I will gladly do these tasks for I must do all that is in my power to make this land happy and wealthy and above all fair-minded and must drive out sleaze ..."

"Give us a break and knock it off," said the Oracle, handing him a parchment. "Now, here is a list of the 12 great tasks and when you have done them you. can come and see me again, but if you want my advice, you will go easy on the smiling and the clean-cut speeches, not that it's any of my business!

The Oracle vanished and Hercules found himself in the pledge myself to do something

middle of a great empty plain on about this." And the Hydra his first quest, to slay the Nemean ison. And as he walked along, he found the Nemean lion lying dead, where it had been run over, and his faithful companion Mandeles said: "Well, that was a stroke of luck, because now we can put it out that you killed him," and that was the first new labour.

Then he came upon a monster called the NHS or National Hydra Scare, a hideously expensive monster which swallowed up everyone's money and which, as soon as you cut off one head of management, grew another nine regional heads more expensive than the first. And Hercules stared straight at it and said in a loud voice: "I was so surprised it died laughing, and that was the second new labour.

Then he came to the prob-

lem of the hunting of the Cerynean hind, but he said there was no time to debate hunting this time round, and that was the third new labour. And then he came to the Erymanthian bore, and he said to it, "Yes, yes, yes, Robin, we all know you've been to Erymanthia to do some troubleshooting, just don't go on about it - I'll do the boring round here!" and that was the fourth new labour.

Now he came to the racing stables of King Augeias, whose Grand Prix horses were famous throughout the world, but where previous government, and then

lution not just from droppings but also from tobacco. No problem," said Hercules, and people nodded wisely and said, yes, there was no problem, and that was the fifth new labour. Then Hercules came to the singing birds of Stymphalia, some of which sang opera in foreign languages and some in their own language, and they made a frightful noise day and night, and ate up money by the million, and Hercules forced them to go and live in one opera house and clear up their own act, and that was the sixth new

the stables were filthy with pol-

ernment. It is time for all

friends of Egypt to start to use

their influence with the Egypt-

ian government to widen the

franchise of democracy to in-

clude all peaceful "Islamic"

Sir: Hugh J Thomson (letter, 18

November) suggests that Tony

Blair has earned the respect of

the public with his apology for

Mr Blair should be judged

by his actions, not his words. A

two-minute apology does not

make up for another broken

promise. It is foolish to tell

politicians that whatever they

do is all right as long as they

apologise for it afterwards,

whether they are only human

DANNY FELDMAN

or not.

the Formula One scandal.

and other groups.

Blair's apology

ADNAN SAIF

Birmingham

The he came to the Cretan Bull, which he had called, saying it was mad because of the

labour.

he came to lots of other problems such as the Millennium Dome, which Atlas usually carried on his shoulders and which Hercules bore for a second just for a photo-opportunity, and then he pledged himself to introduce the Single Girdle of Hippolyte, and he cleared up lots of other problems, or at least: it was announced by his faith-. ful servant Mandeles that hei And finally he went back to:

the Oracle, and said: "I have done all these 12 tasks. Are my: ratings now back to the previous high level which I enjoyed for so long?" And the Oracle said, "No,

they are not." But Hercules ignored thisand behaved as if they were.

Child abuser

23/COMMENT

Cover your posterior isn't the long-term answer



HAMISH **MCRAE FUTURE** GENERATIONS

Politicians have a problem with posterity. Benjamin Disraeli wrote that "the youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity", and the youth vote is certainly something that politicians try to chase. But if you look at what politicians do, rather than what they say, the record is abysmal

Take two hot political issues of the autuma, the environment and pensions. In a couple of weeks' time there will be another global summit on the environment, in Kyoto, Japan. You have probably already noticed that there is a row brewing. If the build-up of global warming gasses is to be curbed action is needed now: the longer the delay the more serious the problem. But the developed world, already failing in the main to meet the CO2 emission targets agreed at the last earth summit in Rio, is now finding great difficulty in agreeing on a new

The US in particular finds itself in the dock, but for others to shout at the present US Administration is pretty pointless. The problem is not with the Administration, for the vice-president, Al Gore, author of Earth in the Balance, is one of the US's most articulate environmentalists. No, the problem is democracy: voters in America - and not just America - will not support the significant increase in energy taxation which might curb energy use.

The difficulty is not confined to developed countries: the developing world, to generalise, is even more reluctant to accept curbs on the growth of emissions - even though the long-term impact of climatic change would seem a more serious threat to most developing countries than to the developed. Countries in temperate zones could cope more easily with global warming than those

in the tropics. Now take pe sions - where each generation of people of working age pays the pensions of the previous generation, now retired - are the standard model for state pensions in the developed world. But a system designed for a ratio of about six workers to every pensioner (the norm in the 1950s) cannot work when there are only two workers for every pensioner - as will be the case in 2030 when people now in their 20s and 30s will be drawing their pensions.

Every politician with a social security brief knows this. The IMF has calculated that the projected deficits of the social security systems of Italy, France, Japan and Germany will by 2050 be more than three times their

But hardly anything is being done. By rights governments ought to be running large surpluses now to take into account these future liabilities, but with a couple of exceptions they all run deficits. Here at least we are now thinking of pension reform, and it looks as though we will move to some kind of system where people who can afford to save for their own pensions will be encouraged, even forced, to do so.

We are lucky, too, in having a developed system of private sector pensions. In that sense we are perhaps more advanced in our pension planning than any other large democracy. But, despite this, in his first budget the Chancellor actually increased the tax burden on company pension funds. Somehow we will all have to save more. Later this month, when the outline budget for next year is presented, look at what he actually plans to do about taxation of savings, not what he

If politicians find it hard to think longterm, what alternative is there? In some areas financial markets can help. It may seem strange to argue that markets have a longer-term focus than politicians. But whenever a government issues a bond maturing in 30 years' time, the investors are taking an implicit view on credit-worthiness and inflation over the next 30 years. Investors who buy companies whose shares trade on 30 years' earnings are making a long-term judgement that these companies

So to some extent - and I think pensions are very good example - the markets are more appropriate mechanisms for making a judgement than politicians. To whom would you rather entrust your pension: a big life assurance company like the Pru or the unknown politicians who will be running the show in 2040?

But there are some problems that markets cannot fix. Coping with global warming is one. The outcome is too uncertain, the period too long, for markets to signal now that, say, the price of oil should be three times its present level. Of course we should be conserving energy now, in the interests of the generations to come. But the markets will not make us do so.

What can? What mechanism can there be which will counter-balance the shorttermism of democratic politics? I suppose the question would seem odd to any other generation. Our ancestors who built the medieval cathedrals understood perfectly the idea of creating something that would not be finished in one's own lifetime. Individually we still are prepared to make sacrifices now for people to benefit from in the future. But collectively we do not seem to be able

Or at least not through government. Surveys repeatedly show disdain towards polities, particularly among the young. But maybe that is because choices are not. presented in full. That surely is the enormous challenge for politicians: to explain the consequences on future generations of present policies, and where politics cannot solve a problem, move the decision-making process out of the politician zone. I suppose handing monetary policy to the central bank is a good global example of politicians accepting that influencing the value of a currency is too important to be left to elected representatives. But not every decision can be relocated, even if politicians wanted to withdraw from present areas of power.

I have no magic wand here, but I can suggest a place to start. It is for politicians to test every idea, every policy for its impact one generation hence. Perhaps the Government should be required to attach a "posterity impact statement" (on the model of environmental impact statements) to every bill it presents to Parliament. They should ask the question - how will this policy affect people in, say, 2020? - and try and give an honest answer. Who knows, it might even attract the youth vote. It would certainly perform that other function, expressed by US author William Safire: "Cover your ass - the bureaucrat's method of protecting his posterior from posterity."



The more we alter, the less we seem to change



WALKER SOCIAL ATTITUDES:

It's fashionable, close to the Millennium, to bang on about change, our ishing, inexorable, global. Change is exciting. It sells Demos pamphlets, and newspapers, too - we are great lighters of candles at the shrine of novelty and its fellow saint,

Reality, however, is pretty stolid. People out there - you -do not readily change. Youth, in every generation, seeks to be a bit different and, in every generation, ends up a few years later remarkably like its progenitors. Swopping jobs, like swopping spouses, remain minority pursuits. As for altering opinions and views of the world, conservatism rules OK.

But not Toryism. For nearly 20 years the Conservatives had their chance to shape the nation. Mrs Thatcher grabbed it in tender places but neither hearts nor public mind followed. The Tories bribed (council bouse sales, privatisation issues) and they cajoled. Their pals in the Americanowned press (eg The Times) hammered away, invoking the Zeitgeist on a daily basis. The public, however, did not buy. Today we have the evidence of the latest annual British Social Attitudes series.

Question after question compares beliefs and opinions at the end of the Conservative era with those in the early Eighties and time and again the pollsters find the impact of Thatcherite Toryism on what people feel has been remarkably - and surprisingly - limited. Take the much-vaunted phe-

nomenon of "Thatcher's children" - those born in the late Sixties and Seventies who came of age during her ascendancy. They turn out not to have been branded by the experience. A little more materialistic, perhaps, but otherwise they are. Iya favourite Tory project.
only faintly different from old What ultimately is clear especially in their broad gauge. collectivism. They are, it's true, more pro-European than their elders and more critical of the monarchy but these are hardly results Lady Thatcher herself would have wished for.

Of course what people say they think and what they do (ie vote Tory in successive general elections until 1997) are not entirely on all fours. Attitude surveying is a kind of counoisseurship of hypocrisy. But Social and Community Planning Research, which mounts the survey, is recognised as the most rigorous monitor of core public sentiment.

Each year, it asks a national sample the same questions. The result is a reputable picture of change. Or, as it often turns out, stasis. The British were, and remain, social democratic and collectivist in their leanings: they want government to provide health and welfare and, within limits, intervene at large

in the workplace, in the environment, on the streets and on television (to control sexy and violent images).

They are, it is true, less keen on government intervention in economic life than when Jim Callaghan fell - to that extent the New Right has won a great and permanent victory. But on closer inspection the public turns out not to be ideologically opposed to government involvement in the private sector, just pragmatic. The researchers have turned up signs that the public - increasingly worried about employer power - might even favour government legislation in favour of Europeanstyle works councils, giving staff a bigger say in their firms, hard-

What ultimately is clear is er members of the population, that the ambitious programme of social reindoctrin nounced by Keith Joseph in the Seventies, when Mrs Thatcher took over as leader of the Tories, has conclusively failed. Ordinary people continue to reject the advice of Frederick Hayek and the economists by continuing to apply tests of fairness to the world around them, including and especially -- the place they work. Hayek and Thatcher may have thought social justice a nonsense; for most people it remains

a daily calibration. People are more suspicious than ever of business (the questions are couched in terms of big business"). They have measured their firms and their managers and found them too often to behave unfairly. Staff increasingly feel they lack a voice at work. There is, it's true, some association between these attitudes and the economic cycle. A protracted period of prosperity might assuage the

anxieties - it might be that if

Labour's economic policy ambitions were realised people would end up happier with capitalism than under the Tories.

Of course some attitudes have shifted during the past 20 years. Post-Tory Britain is more materialistic, more take-themoney-and-run. There has been a small rise - take a bow Peter Lilley - in numbers identifying welfare claimants as "undeserving". But, still, this view is held by less than a third of the population.

As for the unemployed themselves, the surveys say their core attitudes to work are now and always have been the same as those in jobs. In other words they want money and see a job as the way to get it - they don't need the stings and scorpions of benefits reductions to make them want to work.

nails more. You could read some of these BSA tables and conclude that we do now live in an age of anxiety. People tell the pollsters of their worries about their lack of commitment at work and their fear about the future value of their homes -- it will take many more years before the attitudinal legacy of the 1989 housing crash is extirpated. But they also tell the pollsters that their belief in the necessity of work is stronger than ever, and that they are as keen as ever on buying their own homes rather than renting them.

But there is scant support here for the kind of apocalyptic stuff some offered by the think-tanks about "post politics" and the like. The British have, undeniably, been registering growing discontent with the political system - the pollsters frame their questions in terms of trust. But the downward trend in appreciation of MPs, councillors and the rest interestingly bottomed out in 1996 and has since reversed (this, of course, is before Formula One). Meanwhile, growing distrust has been accompanied in the tables by growing support for Constitutional reform - itself an entirely rational response which indicapacity of the system to change for the better.

There is ammunition here for Labour reformers of the House of Lords and advocates of Freedom of Information legislation. Barely a third of the population, however, supports PR and related changes in electoral arrangements. There are limits to how much change is tolerable to Britain's great band of stoics.

Child abusers: treat them young and stop the cycle



KATHY MARKS UNMAKING PAEDOPHILES

Early next year, Sidney Cooke, leader of the paedophile gang that raped and murdered 14respond Jason Swift, will be released from prison. There will he a public outcry at the prospect of such a dangerous man at liberty in the community. Like Robert Oliver, his codefendant, who was freed in September, he will probably be sounded from city to city by angry percuts.

in the meantime, at a conlecence in London today, psy-

and social workers will air the latest research about children who sexually abuse other children. It is an uncomfortable issue, difficult to confront. This is not about playing doctors and nurses. It is about 10-year-old rapists and eight-year-old boys who forcibly penetrate their siblings with objects. The conference, to be

attended by Allan Levy, QC, the eminent childcare lawyer, will receive little publicity, in contrast to the hysterical media coverage of men like Oliver and Cooke. Yet the two subjects are intimately related. For paedophiles do not spring out of the woodwork at the age of 40. Up to half of adult offenders carry out their first assaults in adolescence or earlier.

Society's dilemma about adult abusers stems from the knowledge that they cannot be reformed, only contained. Experience shows that they offend time and again. Young abusers, on the other hand, offer some hope. Professionals believe that the right kind of intervention, made at an early enough stage, can prevent them from becompulsive behaviour.

Over the last decade, a number of intensive treatment programmes have been set up that aim to break this destructive cycle. In group and individual psychotherapy, young people are impelled to face up to the consequences of their actions and to examine their own often profoundly troubled back-It is early days, but the

people working in this field are tentatively optimistic. Of the youngsters who have completed a project in Salford, Greater Manchester, for instance, only 4 per cent have reoffended since 1992. Such statistics are unreliable, since the vast majority of child abuse goes undetected. But project workers say the clinical evidence is compelling. In most cases, they say, children who undergo therapy emerge less sexually aggressive, better able to empathise with their victims and more conscious of potentially hazardous situations: in short, less of a risk to other

children. The programmes are run by

chiatrists, probation officers coming locked into a pattern of the probation service, hospitals and voluntary agencies such as the NSPCC. But there are only a handful of them, serving small parts of the country. Even where a local treatment facility exists, social service departments - the main source of referrals - are often reluctant to provide the funds for a placement, This is highly specialised, highly expensive work. Given competing demands on limited budgets - including care for victims of abuse - it is not given high priority.

The barriers are conceptual, as well as financial. When the extent of adult paedophilia began to be uncovered in the 1980s, society reacted with disbelief. As, in the 1990s, the next layer has been peeled away, revealing that children themselves can be abusive, this idea has met even greater resistance. There is still a tendency for childcare experts to put such behaviour down to adolescent experimentation, and a reluctance by police to prosecute for fear of labelling young people as sex offenders.

The small group of dedicated clinicians working in this area believes that thousands of deeply disturbed young people are slipping through the net, moving inexorably on to ever more serious offences. Onethird of people convicted for sex crimes are under 21. Yet Eileen Vizard, a consultant child psychiatrist who sees children as young as six at the Young Abusers Project in London says that funding is withheld even in some desperate cases. By the mid-teens, she says, it is often too late to intervene. In 1992, the charity NCH

Action for Children set up a committee of inquiry into young abusers and issued a report regarded as the definitive statement on the subject. Among the recommendations of the report, commissioned jointly with the Department of Health, was the creation of a national network of specialist Five years on, services are

still patchy and swamped by demand. The Government has yet to indicate its line on the issue, although Jack Straw's punitive approach to juvenile crime generally does not bode well for

this group of offenders. Simply locking them up is not the answer, and only a couple of young offender institutions offer intensive treatment programmes.

What is required is a joint policy and strategy initiative from central government that spans all the relevant departments - health, education, social security, criminal justice - and facilitates the establishment of a wide spectrum of projects: in the community, in residential units and in youth custody centres. It should also be made clear to social and health service managers that the problem should be placed very high on their agenda.

Realising these ambitions will not come cheap. But withholding the resources will prove far more costly, in terms of accommodating offenders in prison and repairing the damage to future victims. It is not good enough to throw our hands up in horror when another small child is raped and strangled. While we fail to meet this challenge, we are creating the next generation of

"If I couldn't come here at Christmas, I don't know where I'd go" Without at the same to go to, lands small

face a cold lonely Christmas of hunger and misery. Instead, she is welcomed with good, hot food, a safe, dry bed and the pleasure of friendly people to spend Christmas with Some medical care, a visit to the dentist and a clean change of clothes... make her Christmas complete. So please, send £25 now and help

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Details have been changed to protect identity.



BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@ INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Iverson ousted in sudden shake-up at Laura Ashley

Ann Iverson was dramatically ousted yesterday as chief executive of Laura Ashley, the troubled fashion retailer, after her two-year attempt to improve the ailing group's fortunes ended in failure. She will depart with a £450,000 pay-off and is tipped to return to her native America. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports on the end of a colourful high street saga.

The decision to replace Ms Iverson, 54, was taken by the board after several weeks of discussions and she was informed by the chairman, John Thornton, on Monday evening. The company said its decision had not been prompted by pressure from institutional shareholders but by the apparent failure of Ms Iverson's strategy to turn the group around. The company denied that Sir Bernard Ashley, Laura Ashley's widower, bad instigated Ms Iverson's removal though it is understood he did support it.

Ms Iverson will depart with immediate effect with a pay-off of one year's salary equivalent to £450,000. Jim Walsh, one of her closest allies whom she brought in as finance director, is also set to leave though he will remain until a successor can be found.

Stephen Cox, the group's company secretary, said: "If you look at this year's numbers it was not a surprise. Obviously it is disappointing not just for her but for the rest of the business. We probably ran too far too fast and the plan now will be to restore stability."

David Hoare, who was brought in as chief operating officer two months ago, will become the group's fourth chief executive in less than four years. He is set to review the group's operations in North America, which have been performing poorly. The number of product lines will also be reviewed after City criticism that the attempting to sell ladieswear, childrenswear and home furnishings from small stores is proving unsuccessful.

The company is also in talks with its

bankers about the terms of a £50m loan. A company spokesman claimed that the banks were being supportive.

Ms Iverson will return her 5.5 million share options. Mr Walsh will return his 1.1 million options and will also receive a £300,000 pay-off. After the controversy of Ms Iverson's remuneration, Mr Hoare is being paid a more modest £200,000 a year with no bonus. His share option package has yet to be decided.

Retailing analysts said the timing of Ms Iverson's departure was a surprise. Nick Bubb of Société Générale Strauss Turnbull said: "Either there has been a falling out or there is more bad news about trading on the way." He added: "The task [to turn around Laura Ashley] was almost superhuman. It now faces a long period of consolidation and cost-cutting. But it is a business with some kind of future."

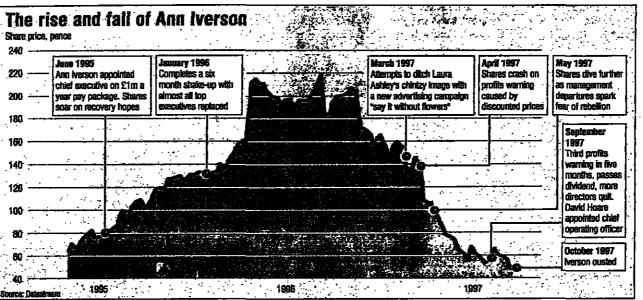
Ms Iverson's departure marks the end of a two-year tenure at Laura Ashley which has been characterised by aggressive predictions which have seldom been realised. When she was recruited in June 1995, she arrived with a golden reputation as a retail wonderwoman. After making her name as a high flyer at Bonwit Teller and Bloomingdales in the United States, she was enticed to Britain by David Dworkin, then head of Storehouse, the BHS and Mothercare retailer. She cemented her reputation here by turning around the fortunes of Mothercare before returning to America.

When Sir Bernard Ashley announced her as the new chief executive of Lanra Ashley, she was hailed as the potential saviour of the once proud retailer which had fallen on troubled times.

But her appointment caused problems from the start. Her pay package, which could have netted her £3.4m over three years, ruffled feathers in the City. And her aggressive management style soon caused disquiet in the boardroom. She recruited an almost entirely new team which included John Thornton, one of the most senior figures at Goldman Sachs, as chairman, She also filled the board with several Americans and several women. But her hands-on style which many said was too interfering, caused a string of executives to quit.



effect, with a pay-off of one year's salary equivalent to £450,000



MacLaurin set to chair **Vodafone**

Lord MacLaurin, the former chairman of Tesco and now head of the England and Wales Cricket Board, is set to become the next chairman of the Vodafone cellular telephone operator.

He is expected to take over the post from Sir Ernest Harrison next year as part of a boardroom shake-up that will also see two new non-executive directors drafted in. Sir David Scholey, the former head of the investment bank SG Warburg, and Professor Alec Broers, vice-chancellor of Cambridge University, are to take over from Sir William Varlow and Sir Robert Clark.

Lord MacLaurin was appointed to the board as a non-executive earlier this year. News of his elevation to the chairmanship came as Vodafone drove home its market leadership in the mobile telephone business by unveiling better than expected interim results and a new set of price reductions and predicting a record Christmas.

Vodafone claimed the price reductions would undercut Orange's tariffs by between 5 and 10 per cent, but Orange disputed this. The new price cuts will benefit 2.1 million Vodafone customers and will see peak-rate call charges cut by 12.5 per cent and offpeak rates fall by more than 15 per cent. Some charges will fall by up to 16.5 per cent.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to the end of September came in at £297.5m - an 18 per cent improvement on last year and nigher than the analysts' range of forecasts. Chris Gent, Vodafone's chief executive, said it had benefited from a particularly strong UK performance which resulted in un-

derlying profit growth rising by £42.5m. The improvement in profits came despite a £10m currency hit because of the strength of sterling and £19m of restructuring charges. One of the main factors was a sharp drop in bonus payments to service providers which have shrunk from £150 to £86 per customer.

Mr Gent forecast a net growth in customers of around 120,000 in the current quarter adding: "It looks like being a very strong Christmas, probably our strongest ever."

Two-thirds of its 3 million subscribers have converted from analogue to digital service and usage rates are up from 113 to 133 minutes a month. Despite the clamp-down on the use of mobile phones in trains and the criticism of their use in cars. Mr Gent said usage levels were benefiting from the growth in the "walking and talking" market.

Beckett delivers setback to Sears recovery by blocking Freemans sale

The hopes of Sears, the struggling retailer, for an upturn in fortunes were dealt a further blow yesterday when its plan to sell its Freemans mail order business to Littlewoods for £367.5m was blocked by the Government. Margaret Beckett, President of the board of trade said the merger of Littlewoods and Freemans "may be expected to operate against the public interest." Nigel Cope, City Correspondent reports.

Publishing the MMC report Margaret Beckett said she accepted the report's findings that the link-up of the two companies would have given Littlewoods a dominant position in the agency mail order business. As City analysts had expected she concentrated on the possible impact on lower income groups which use agency mail order as a use of cheap credit which they may be denied from other sources such as credit cards and store cards.

She said: "This merger would have a direct impact on a substantial number of individual consumers; over 20 million people in the UK use agency mail order. Lower income groups make up around two-thirds of all agents and these groups account for around 70 per cent of all agency mail order sales."

Mrs Beckett said the agency market was highly concentrated and static. Together with the market leader Great Universal Stores, a merged Littlewoods and Freemans would have accounted for 80 per cent of agency mail order sales between them.

She supported the MMC's view that the deal could have reduced competition and led to a detrimental effect on choices, prices or the efficiency of the market. "Some benefits might be expected from the merger if it were allowed to proceed but the MMC's conclusion is that the benefits do not outweigh the adverse effects identified in the report," Mrs Beckett concluded.

The decision is a big setback for Sears' as it had hoped to use the proceeds of the Freemans sale to fund a £400m-plus pay-out to the group's long-suffering shareholders. It will now seek to demerge Freemans within the next two years and will review options on the special dividend or share buy back at the time of the Selfridges de-merger. It is now likely that only the £77m gained from the sale of the St Enoch's shopping centre in Scotland will be returned to shareholders.

Commenting on the blocking of the Freemans



deal, Sir Bob Reid, Sears chairman, said he

plans to improve Freemans' performance

regretted the decision and would seek a judicial review. However, analysts said the chances of success via this route were "virtually nil".

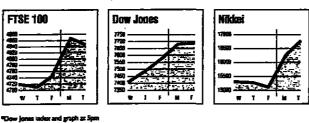
Sir Bob said Sears would not seek to sell Freemans to any other bidders but concentrate on improving its performance. Yesterday it reported a better than expected trading performance with second half sales up by 8 per cent to date.

The blow knocked 3.5p off Sears share price. which fell to a 15-year low of 54.5p. Analysts said that even though the market had been anticipating the Government's decision "the news was still depressing when confirmed".

Nick Bubb at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull said that when Selfridges was demerged next June it could be worth 30p per share valuing it at around £460m. This leaves other parts of the business such as British Shoe Corporation valued at almost nothing in the current share price.

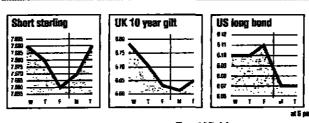
Sears says plans to sell the footwear businesses are progressing well and that interest has been expressed in all of the brands. Potential buyers are now undertaking their due diligence procedures. There have been fears that the company may be forced to close larger numbers of stores if buyers cannot be find. David James, the company doctor, has been working on finding buyers since the spring together with JP Morgan, the investment bank.

STOCK MARKETS



Indices intex	Clese	Change	Change(%)	52 城湖	52 whice	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	4845.40	-21.60	-0.44	5367.30	3882.70	3.60
FTSE 250	4623.40	-2.40	-0.05	4963.80	4321,80	3,50
FTSE 350	2340,70	-8.70	-0.37	2570.50	1935.70	3.58
FTSE All Share	2290.99	-8.44	-0.37	2507.68	1942,22	3.56
FTSE SmallCao	2280.0	-8.10	-0.35	2407.40	2127.50	3,28
FTSE Redaling	1251.1	-4.10	-0.33	1346.50	1198.70	3.42
FTSE AIM	983.0	-1.10	-0,11	1138.00	965.90	1.06
Dow Jones	7691.34	-5.41	-0.07	8299.03	6236.05	1.75
Midde	16726.57	443.25	2.72	21460.57	14966.13	0.92
Hang Sang	10245.18	-174.57	-1.68	16820,31	8775.88	3.91
Dax	3833.47	38.86	1.02	4459.89	2756.11	2.08

INTEREST RATES

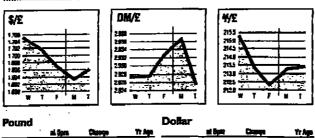


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ĸ	7.68	1.24	7.94	0.94	6.65	-0.85	6.58	-1.1
K	5.88	0.38	6.00	0.31	5.85	-0.35	6.07	-0.3
3D281	0,44	-0.06	0.53	-0.12	1.92	-0.74	2.53	-0.7
	3.75	0.57	4.10	0.81	5.57	-0.23	6.19	-0.5

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (s)	Clag (p)	S, Cliga	Fails	Price (s)	Chy (y)	10
Williams	390.00	37.00	10.48	Enterprise	609.00	-43.00	-6.6
Racal Electronic	224,00		4.43	Sears		-3.50	-6.0
Great Port	255.00	100.00	4.08	Vodaphone	341.5	-15.5	4.3
Lonrho	91.50		3.98	Orange	242	-g	-3.5

CURRENCIES



D-Mark 1.7252 -0.61pt

105.90

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OTHER INDICATORS

2.9265 -0.68pf

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Silver (S)	5.11	-0.03	4.91	Base	istes	7.25	6.00	
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Energis executives will net £1 m in flotation bonuses

A group of senior executives at Energis will net flotation bonuses worth more than £im when the telecoms operator comes to the stock market next month in an offering valuing the company at up to £962m. Michael Harrison reports.

Gordon Owen, the chairman of Energis and the driving force behind its creation using the National Grid's distribution system, will receive a bonus of up to £895,000, of which about £600,000 will be reinvested in buying 200,000 shares in the business.

A further 15-20 executives most closely involved with the development of the business, led by finance director Chris Hibbert, will share in discretionary flotation bonuses of £250,000.

Mike Grabiner, chief executive, will not receive a flotation bonus but he has been granted more than 800,000 share options which are showing a maximum paper profit of £1.7m. According to the pathfinder prospectus published yesterday, his salary will be £270,000 and he will be eligible for an annual bonus of up to 50 per cent of basic pay.

Mr Owen is a lifelong telecoms executive. He was finance director of Cable & Wireless when it was privatised by the previous government in 1981. He subsequently became chief executive and launched its Mercury subsidiary in competition with BT.

The shares will be priced at between 250p and 325p, giving Energis a total market value of between £815m and £962m. A total of 75 million shares will be issue and priced through

a book building exercise. Although the issue is not being marketed at private shareholders, it is thought that between 5 and 7 per cent of the issue could end up with retail investors.

The National Grid, which owns 100 per cent of Energis, is selling off 26 per cent of the total share capital, meaning that the issue will raise net proceeds of £175m to £230m depending on the final share price. There is an over-allotment option which will entitle the Grid to issue a further 11.25 million bringing the proportion of the equity on offer to just under 30 per cent.

All of the proceeds will be used to repay a £205m debt to the parent company and the Grid has undertaken not to sell off any more of its shares for six months after the float.

Because of the complicated way the float has been structured, the Grid will own just under 50 per cent of the ordinary voting shares but will effectively control nearly three-quarters of the company through non-voting convertible preference shares.

Advisers said this shareholder structure would give Energis operational independence from the Grid without removing its bid-

sively on the business telephone market and high value-added services, made a profit of £2.1m before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation on sales sales of £69m in the first half of this year.

Energis is forecast to be making profits on a pre-tax basis in 2000-2001 and paying a dividend the year after. It has 16,000 customers spread across 35,000 sites but its two biggest customers by far are the BBC and the Grid itself, accounting for some £40m of annualised

BIB man quits after chief executive is hired

Peter Van Gelder, managing director of British Gelder has decided he isn't going to stay on tween BSkyB, BT, Midland Bank and Matsushita Electric, has quit after a chief executive was appointed over his head.

Mr Van Gelder spent less than six months in the post, but decided to leave over the weekend, following Friday's appointment of David Hilton in the new post of chief executive.

Mr Hilton was occupying Mr Van Gelder's office yesterday, and calls to Mr Van Gelder were directed to a mobile telephone number which he did not answer. Mr Van Gelder, 43, was formerly managing director of Teletext before joining BIB in June.

A spokesman for BIB said: "Mr Van

Interactive Broadcasting, the joint venture be- as managing director. He will continue to work with BIB to effect a smooth handover, but he has decided on reflection he'd be better off pursuing interests elsewhere." The spokesman would not comment on Mr Van Gelder's compensation package, nor on his current salary.

BIB, which is to provide interactive services for digital television, is to make further senior appointments shortly in an attempt to boost its management team. Sources close to the company said the boardroom shake-up came at a sensitive time. The European Commission recently sent BIB a list of concerns focusing on the linkup of dominant players such as BT and BSkyB. –Cathy Newman

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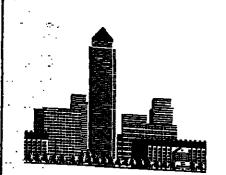
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OUTLOOK ON LAURA ASHLEY'S TROUBLES, THE STOCK EXCHANGE'S TRADING PROBLEMS AND THE IRON

CHANCELLOR

Iverson made things worse at Laura Ashley

When she was appointed as chief executive of Laura Ashley, Anne Iverson must have known she was taking on one of the toughest jobs in British retailing. Unfortunately she seems to have made her task tougher still by adopting an over-optimistic view about what could be achieved. Yesterday she duly paid the price.

Laura Ashley has been all at sea ever since its synonymous founder and inspiration died more than ten years ago. This is often the case with entrepreneurial companies after the visionary who created them passes away. In many respects, it is a miracle that Laura Ashley is still here at all, given the experimental management the company was subjected to and the degree to which it strayed from the principles, designs and culture that made it into a household name.

The situation was bad enough when the flame haired Mr Iverson arrived. Far from correcting the company's difficulties, her go getting, hands on, whirtwind approach to management seems to have made them worse. Her whole modus operandi tended towards the over-optimistic and the expansionary, but this proved to be the last thing that Laura Ashley needed.

Ms Iverson's biggest mistake was the big drive for expansion in the US, which she rightly saw as a natural for the Laura Ashley brand. Operationally, however, the company was never up to it, and the push has resulted in big losses. There was also a more fundamental difficulty. On the garments side of the business, she and others took the product in the wrong direction. Whatever that product now is, one thing is certain - it is not Laura Ashley. The new man in the job, David Hoare, a former Bainie, is likely to be much more suited to the calm. step by step, back to its origins approach this company really needs. The goals will be more modest, but the result should be a good deal more satisfactory.

Ms Iverson departs from the wreckage with a year's pay and plenty of time to pursue her friendship with Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy of Woolworths, with whom she has been romantically linked. This is perhaps more than she deserved.

Order-driven anomalies

The Stock Exchange is sticking to the script on the alleged shortcomings of its new order-driven trading system, but worries are plainly mounting that Sets is not the unqualified success we have been led to believe. Yesterday's move to allow execution only brokers to warn their clients to trade later in the day when they might get a better price is an embarrassing admission that the new system is potentially flawed.

In the run up to its launch four weeks ago, it was claimed that Sets would be the investor's friend, making it cheaper for everyone to buy and sell shares by slashing the difference between the bid and offer prices that used to represent the market maker's cut. It hasn't worked out that way. Far from becoming extinct, jobbers are for

the time being making hay. They are still conducting two thirds of all business and making a better turn on it to boot.

According to the Exchange, the average spread has fallen below the old system's benchmark of just over 0.6 per cent. For most of the day it hovers around 0.5 per cent, but that disguises periods at both ends of the trading day when the spread is much higher. At the opening, it can be four times as much and does not tend to fall until about 10 o'clock when the market has enough depth to make it a sensible reflection of buying and selling

What that means in practice is that some pretty silly prices get quoted, and because the computer just does what it's told, some pretty silly deals get done. This is fine if you are close to the market and able to get a feel for what is the right price by watching other deals go through the system. It is not much good to Auntie Flo telling her no-frills broker to sell her building society shares "at best price".

Every day a glaring anomaly is thrown up. For instance, a string of trades in Williams yesterday at 351p was followed by one insignificant deal of 1,000 shares at 390p. Moreover, because it was the last order book transaction of the day in the stock, the higher price was booked as the closing price and is what appears in today's newspapers. This despite bearing no relation to the vast bulk of yesterday's dealings.

The relationship between the Stock Exchange and its computers being what it is, Gavin Casey is taking great care not to seem

complacent, but he appears wonyingly con-tent to wait and see if higher volumes will solve the problem. They may do, but just in case the Exchange reverts to form, make sure you deal after lunch and set a limit.

Boom will not last for Brown

It should perhaps come as a surprise to learn that Gordon Brown has been tougher on public spending than Kenneth Clarke, but somehow it doesn't. Where Mr Clarke a year ago revised up his forecast for the current year's PSBR from £15bn to £19bn, his successor is likely to revise his down from £11bn to £9bn. The scale of the boom has exceeded all expectations, explaining part of the Brown improvement. But more important is the fact that central government departments are so far spending less this year than they were last. The new Chancellor does indeed seem to be made of iron.

It won't last. The economy will start to slow next year. In addition, the pressures for higher public spending so widely discussed during the election campaign have not vanished in the new dawn. Pay is one issue. The only reason economy-wide average earnings look so favourable despite falling unemployment is because of the public sector pay freeze. The time will come when nurses, teachers and council

officials have to be awarded a decent rise. Nor will the Government be able to es-

cape spending more money on health and education. Yesterday's news of bigger and longer NHS waiting lists can only have reinforced the new Government's concern about this political and fiscal timebomb. For all Gordon Brown's determination to reallocate money within the total and make savings on efficiency, the Government cannot hope to meet the public's expectations through this route alone.

The Chancellor will undoubtedly want to stick to his own golden rule on the government budget, with borrowing limited to the amount of public sector investment over the course of a business cycle. Mr Brown is so determined to be fiscally prudent that he plans to legislate for borrowing rules.

So how is he going to accommodate these growing pressures on spending? One obvious solution would be to fudge it - to redefine public investment to include some health and education spending after the results of the "Comprehensive Spending review" are announced next summer. This would give extra leeway on borrowing. The trouble with this approach is that the City would see it for what it would be, a tricky sleight of hand.

The more likely solution, then, would be for the Chancellor to resort to a mix of asset sales and high taxes. There's nothing left of the family silver now, but there is still the odd pewter mug lying on the back shelf that might hold a car boot sale price. Rather more promising is the scope for raising taxes. Inevitably this is where the real squeeze is going to come.

Japan stocks bounce back as government relief plan unveiled

The startling rally in the japanese stock market showed no sign of abating yesterday, despite a lukewarm reaction to a new government package designed to stimulate the stailing economy. Richard Lloyd Parry reports from Tokyo.

The Nikkei stock average of 225 leading shares closed at 16,726.57, up 443 points or 2.7 per cent. Since the beginning of the week, stocks have risen by more than 10 per cent, despite the collapse on Monday of Hokkaido Takushoku, Japan's tenth biggest bank.

nuses

Investors took heart from hints by ministers that, despite their new willingness to let big banks go under, depositors would be protected by the government - a position which appeared to be echoed yesterday by Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister.

"As I've said, we want to bold a meeting with this in mind," he replied, in answer to a question about whether public funds would be made available.

Officials of the Ministry of Finance admitted after the collapse of Hokkaido Takushoku that they expected "one or two more banks to go under". Ominously, the Ministry of Finance yesterday began an "inspection" of Hokkaido Bank, a regional bank based, like Hokkaido Takushoku, on Japan's northemmost island. Hokkaido has

(£940m) in bad loans, generally judged to be an underestimate.

But in the financial world, there is presently little doubt that the government will step in to rescue depositors at stricken banks if not the institutions themone the public, however, the use of tax money to save banks which have gone under due to their own bad lending decision is unpopular. In any case, the government has committed itself to cutting public spending in an effort to cut its own debt of more than ¥ 500 trillion.

The government's difficulties were underlined yesterday by the announcement of a new policy package of deregulation measures intended to boost the private sector and stimulate stagnant growth. It contained more than 100 individual measures, ranging from the privatisation of KDD, the country's biggest international phone carrier, to government loans for small business, and a change in stock market rules to allow banks and insurance compa-

nies to compete with brokerages. According to the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), the overall effect of the package on the economy will be 60 trillion yen. Previous injections of government cash, some 60 trillion yen worth between 1992 and 1995, have "resulted in the worst and most critical fiscal conditions among the major economies in the world," said the economic planning minister, Koji Omi. "I am fully convinced that this economic policy package will soon push our economy back on

owned up to about 200bn yen a robust growth path led by more vigorous and dynamic economic activities in the private sector."

> But some of the measures outlined will not take effect until 1999, and the concession on which business had been pinning its hopes of short-term relief package, although a review of corporate tax cuts is promised for December. "The question is whether it can serve as a quick fix for the flagging Japanese economy," said Kosaku Inaba, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "I hope the government will formulate an additional package that includes tax cuts," said Shoji Tsuda, president of the Mitsukoshi department store chain, badly hit by the rise last April in the consumption tax.

Elsewhere in Far East markets, the escalating problems in South Korea dominated the day's events. The key KOSPA stock market index plunged as much as 4 per cent after South Korea's parliament rejected financial reform bills, heightening speculation that the government would seek tens of billions of dollars from the International Monetary Fund. The KOSPA index still finished 2.32 per cent down on the day.

In Hong Kong, a three-day rally in share prices was halted as the Hang Seng index fell 174.57 points to 10,245.18. There was further concern about possible interest rate increases. "Hong Kong" interbank rates are up slightly, and that's enough to make people ner-ING-Baring Securities (HK).



vous," said James Osborn of Japanese shares surged overnight on reports, later denied, that Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto (above) said public funds would be used to bail out the shaky banking sector

Brown is able to slash borrowing

The Government's finances are in better shape than anybody expected. The reason is Gordon Brown's success at beating even the tough Tory spending targets, as Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, reports.

.The Government repaid £5.7bn control of spending. Departborrowing for the financial year so far to just £2.6bn compared with £11.2bn at the same stage last year.

The one-off sale of Ministry of Defence housing makes the comparison unfair. Even so, City analysts were unanimous yesterday in predicting that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be able to announce a target for the public sector borrowing requirement this year of some £2bn below the target he set in July.

The strong economy has helped deliver the improvement in borrowing, boosting the tax take and helping reduce expenditure on social security

payments. Yesterday's figures showing a surplus of government revenue over expenditure in October benefited from £10.8bn in corporation tax receipts, a £1.7bn increase on the same month last year. There will be another tax bonus from

windfall tax revenues of £2.6bn due in December.

The picture for total tax revenues is more mixed, however. Income taxes were up strongly year-on-year but customs and excise receipts such as VAT were, surprisingly, lower than a year ago.

The main reason for the better-than-expected borrowing figures published yesterday is the Government's ultra-tough seven months of this financial year is 0.7 per cent lower than last year, much less than the annual growth rate of 1.7 per cent

pencilled in by the Treasury. Spending is likely to increase over the course of the next few months. Departments traditionally catch up in the final month or two of the financial year if they face the risk of an underspend being carried over into the subsequent vear's allocation.

Many economists also expect the pressure for higher spending on health and education to derail the Iron Chancellor's targets in the end.

David Hillier, UK economist at Barclays Capital, said: "We all expected slippage in the spending plans after the elections and you have to give them credit for avoiding that But I don't think a Labour Government will carry on delivering negative spending

Sabena buys Airbus jets in \$1.5bn agreement

Airbus Industrie yesterday beat Boeing to a \$1.5bn (£890m) order from the Belgian flagcarrier Sabena in a move which will see the European aircraft consorrum becoming its sole

Sabena is to buy 34 narrowbodied Airbus jets to replace its ageing fleet of Boeing 737s which are being phased out because of tougher noise limits. In a closely fought contest, Boeing had offered to help fund

Sabena's technical mainte-

nance operations through a joint venture company. However, Sabena's close links with Swissair, which is a big operator of Airbus aircraft may have swung the deal in favour of the European contertium. As part of its bid, Airbus also offered Sabena a training package supported by

poised to pick up further launch orders for its stretched A340-500 and 600 jets from Lufthansa and Swissair. The industrial launch of the new jet, expected to cost about \$2bn to develop, has been held up because of uncertainties about UK funding for the project. The Government has in-

dicated that it will not provide British Aerospace with £120m in launch aid to build the wings

cent stake in Airbus, is facing total deviopment costs of £360m and has warned that it may take the Airbus work abroad if the Government refuses to provide launch investment putting thousands of jobs at risk. Alternative locations for building the wings include Spain and Italy.

Meanwhile, Airbus was mis-selling scandal vast new markets ~

for the A340-500 and 600. BAc, which has a 20 per

Secretary to the Treasury, said yesterday that failure by pension providers to clear up the

Helen Liddell, Economic

would affect their ability to sell in two potentially stakeholder pensions and individual savings accounts. Aridrew Verity

In a statement to the House of Commons, Mrs Liddell said the records of investment firms in compensating investors for mis-selling will be taken into account when they apply to sell the new financial products to be launched by the Government.

She said: "We anticipate that future decisions on the regulatory approval of stakeholder pensions would take into account the conduct and corporate governance of those involved. This would include, of course, their record in settling

cases of mis-sold pensions. "The Government believes that the time has come for a whole range of sanctions to come into play. The only way for a firm or an individual to avoid disciplinary action is to avoid the conduct which warrants it."

The Government also confirmed yesterday that directors could be removed from boardroom posts for failure to meet deadlines for clearing up the mis-selling scandal. More than 90 per cent of the top priority cases must be completed by the end of December.

Errant directors could also be barred from working within the financial services industry. The same will apply to the managers and sales staff of life

insurers and independent have no retirement provision financial advisers.

"Far too many firms - from big insurance companies to small independent financial advisers - have been slow to act. Some firms have hardly started. They have not yet grasped the severity of the situation," Mrs Liddell said

While the Government has hinted in the past that poor conduct of the review of mis-sold pensions would affect the ability to sell the new products, Mrs Liddell's statement is the first explicit warning.

Stakeholder pensions are at the heart of the Government's much-touted pension reforms, aimed at giving people on lower incomes better access to pension provision. They will be designed as collective investments and marketed through trade unions, professional bodies and other affinity groups.

Given that 8 million people

Stakeholder threat to pension laggards

except state pensions, the market is potentially huge. In order to compete with other pension

products, the new pensions

would have to enjoy tax breaks.

Mrs Liddell has also given her first formal warning that mistakes in the mis-selling review will affect decisions on which companies will sell individual savings accounts, the new tax-privileged vehicle set for launch in April 1999.

For companies likely to fail to complete the pension misselling review on time, the statement confirms that future earnings are in jeopardy. When individual savings accounts (ISAs) are introduced, they will be designed to accept tens of billions of pounds of money held in personal equity plans (PEPs). If the company cannot offer ISAs, any funds held in PEPs are likely to move away

to other providers.

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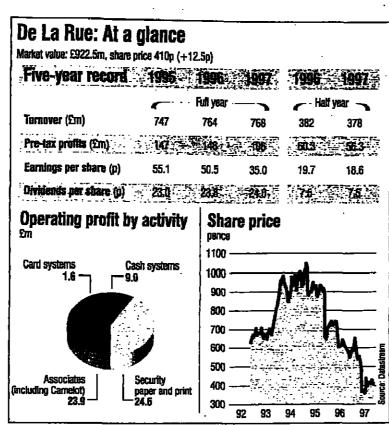
Worst seems over at De La Rue

It has been a tough three years for De La Rue shareholders. They have seen their investment in the banknote printer lose around two-thirds of its value as the darling of the recession became the currency-stricken laggard of the boom. From a high of 1,052p in 1995, on a 35 per cent premium to the rest of the market, the shares tumbled to as low as 325p during the summer, a similar-sized discount.

De La Rue has faced two big problems. First, there is too much capacity in the already mature banknote printing market and the company's previously fat margins have been steadily eroded until they are now merely comfortable. Second, 75 per cent of De La Rue's UK production goes overseas it has been clobbered by the strong pound, which has risen by an average 22 per cent against other European currencies in a year.

Against that gloomy background, half year figures vesterday were rather better than expected with profits of Rosy prospects £56.3m. Strip out the currency effect and profits would have increased 8 per for Enterprise cent to more than £64m, even if the real driver was De La Rue's associates, including Camelot, and not its. Looking at the speed with which the core operations.

The key to the company regaining its previous rating is how successful it can be in rolling out new products in its cash-handling division, which makes banknote sorters, counters and dispensers, and in taking advantage of the inevitable shift from cash and simple plastic to highly complex smart card technology. Both areas have great growth potential. However, ing restructuring charges, rose 71 per there is, of course, a world of difference between operating in a growth area and profiting from it and analysts share, which more accurately reflect the still believe De La Rue's profits will be at best pedestrian this year and next. The current year forecast of just over £100m is well down on last British pub interests and the west year's £121m which probably won't be country pub group Discovery Inns beaten next year, either. The worst were behind the strong growth. Both appears to be over for the shares. look great buys. By spending money however, and at vesterday's 410p. up sprucing up the estates and gradually 12.5p, they are reasonable value, disposing of the worst performers, supported by a 6 per cent net yield. average income per pub rose 9 per cent.



big brewers are throwing money at developing new themed bars and massive city centre "super pubs", you would have thought the days of the traditional British boozer were numbered. However, the outstanding success of Enterorise Inns. with its burgeoning portfolio of small tenanted locals, shows this is a long way from the truth.

Enterprise's pre-tax profits, ignorcent to £14.5m in the year to September. More importantly earnings per underlying performance of the business, rose an impressive 26 per cent.

The acquisition of John Labatt's

And margins continue to rise as Enterprise spreads overheads over its

larger portfolio. Enterprise plans to continue the acquisition spree, aiming to double the size of its chain to around 2,500 pubs within five years. It can comfortably afford to spend another £50m on purchases without having to call on shareholders for more cash and there are no shortage of targets. The brewers are still intent on running down their tenanted estates and plenty of smaller pub groups up for grabs. So far Enterprise has shown it has a keen eye for a bargain and as long as it can keep picking up purchases at a decent price board's expectations its prospects look rosy.

The sort of returns being made from investing in managed pubs still look attractive compared to tenanted estates. However, the managed pub market is looking increasingly overcrowded and Enterprise's profits are there is little option but to hang on and less likely to be affected if the economy begins to slow.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett forecasts full year profits of £20.5m, putting the shares on a prospective PE ratio of just 11. Enterprise's share best be avoided.

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price have risen sharply since the group floated at 145p two years ago, and closed up 0.5p to 261.5p yesterday. They still look good value.

Limelight still sinking

Limelight, the Moben kitchens and Dolphin bathrooms business, has been one of the worst new issues of recent times. Floated at 175p a year ago the shares have been devastated by a series of profits warnings and the departure of the group's chief executive. The shares have slumped as low as 35p and investors - if they have not sold already - must be wondering if there are any grounds at all

Not a huge amount, is the short answer. Yesterday's trading update said that the group expects to record a small trading loss in the current financial year. This was considered a profits warning in the City even though most analysts gave up covering this stock months ago. The company had been expected to make a modest profit. The shares, so used to bad news did not budge from 39.5p.

On the positive side the group's reorganisation, under which the Mobens Kitchens Direct (MKD) business is being integrated with the

Dolphin bathrooms division, is expected to reduce the cost base and create a more stable platform for next year. There has also been some improvement in the fitted kitchens market which failed to reap much benefit from the building society windfall bonanza. Sales and operating profits for the second half of the year at MKD are expected to improve while the Sharps fitted bedroom business is trading in line with the

More significantly, the company says it may dispose of some divisions though it is not saying which. Given this last point, forecasts for the full year are not really meaningful. But for existing investors who paid 175p per share hope that disposals lift prospects. For others there may be some upside for investors who are feeling very brave. But given Limelight's dismal record in its brief life as a public company it should

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

JOHN WILLCOCK



Lord Saatchi has joined the board of Flextech as a non-executive director. Maurice Saatchi, a partner in M&C Saatchi, will join the cable and satellite TV company headed by Roger Luard just as Flextech steps up its subscription channel joint venture with the BBC.

If Flextech can make the UKTV project with the Beeb work, then it has a very big future. If not, then it's in trouble. Lord Saatchi's appointment fits in with Mr Luard's drive to beef up the company on all fronts, including PR and non-execs.

The media industry can be notoriously unforgiving. As one cynical insider described Lord Saatchi's appointment vesterday. The head of a company which prizes appearance over reality is joining a company which has never turned a profit." Ouch. I'm sure it will all work out in the end.

To Claridges on Monday, courtesy of Lazards, the merchant bank, to listen to Tony Blair waffle on about this and that to an audience of highpowered industrialists. It was quite clear that many of the grandes fromages had expected a small, select "power lunch" with the nation's leader, instead of which they were confronted by a 60-strong mass meeting.

Diners were able to discuss who was the more powerful - Mr Blair, or the person sitting next to him, Carol Galley of Mercury Asset Management. Bernie Ecclestone had not been invited. After giving a rather lacklustre speech, Mr Blair quipped: "I'll be passing round the hat later for donations to the Labour Party. Nothing more than £5.000, please." How they laughed.

So Liffe is moving to Spitalfields after all. Those hordes of young people in their multi-coloured jackets can relax - they're not going to be banished to Canary Wharf in London's Docklands, as many feared.

Britain's futures market has been bursting at the seams for some time now in its Cannon Street home, and yesterday the London Borough of Tower Hamlets gave the go-ahead for a new £200m building on the eastern edge of the Square Mile which will contain over 680,000 square feet of space. Earlier this month John Prescott, Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, decided not to call in the planning application for the new Liffe office.

Daniel Hodson, Liffe's chief executive, is delighted that the location of its new home has been decided. So concerned was the Corporation of London to prevent Liffe from going down the river to Canary Wharf that it had agreed to buy back the Spitalfields site for £40m if anything were to endanger the project, up until 2001.

This generous underwriting must have helped sway Liffe to stay in the City. The futures market currently houses around 4,500 people, and next May will temporarily spill over into the London Stock Exchange's old trading floor on Throgmorton Street. By 2003 when the shiny new Spitalfields building is due to be ready Liffe expects to house 11,700 people.

Now if I could just find out which company supplies all those colourful jackets ...

Lord MacLaurin of Tesco fame is joining Whitbread as a non-executive director, in order to help the brewing group grow in its chosen area of "leisure retailing".

He retired from the supermarket group earlier this year at the age of 60, but if anything took on even more of a challenge as Chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board

At Whitbread Lord MacLaurin will be rubbing shoulders with other non-execs like Pru Leith, the media chef who heads up the Royal Society of Arts.

Only 10 per cent of Whitbread's profits still come from its traditional business of brewing beer. Lord MacLaurin will be advising on how best to grow leisure brands such as Beefeater, Pizza Hut and TGI Fridays, not to mention Thresher off licences, made famous by the former Chancellor Norman Lamont.

The Summer of Love has come late to the UK's chartered accountants. My spies tell me that Nick Land, Ernst & Young's boyish senior partner, received a standing ovation at KPMG's annual partners' dinner held in Birmingham last week. The two accountancy giants are in merger talks, as every schoolboy knows.

Accompanied by fellow E&Y partners Andrew Jones and Clive Williams, and several hundred copies of their glossy new annual report, Nick was greeted with considerably more enthusiasm than the after-dinner entertainers, the Spicey Girls, a tribute band based on the original scary fivesome, who were "authentically bad", I am told.

It's definitely the top of the market. Sell everything and head for the hills. Car salesman Andy Fern, aged 25, has taken more than a million pounds in orders in just 17 days for his new company, Stratstone, based in Manchester's stockbroker-belt town of Wilmslow.

The spotty youth has taken orders for 24 Boxster 996 Porsches during the first two and a half weeks in the job. Andy himself is more interested in motorbikes. Myself, I'm off to the bus stop.

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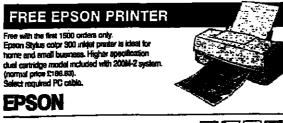
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COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Co-op Bank customers can use Post Offices

Co-operative Bank yesterday announced that its customers will be able to bank at any of the 15,500 Post Offices nationwide from next week. After a successful pilot scheme involving 1,500 branches, the Co-op has sealed a deal under which customers can make cash or cheque deposits at Post Office branches. Cheques can also be cashed at local Post Offices. The deal helps remove a marketing problem for Coop Bank, which has had difficulty attracting new customers because of its small, 150-branch network. The Post Office is also piloting a scheme to allow customers of Lloyds TSB to bank at its branches.

Camelot profits up

Camelot, the National Lottery operator, said it expected to make £10bn for good causes by the end of its licence in September 2001, £1bn more than it had originally predicted. Camelot celebrated the third anniversary of the lottery by announcing a rise in pre-tax profits to £34.8m (£31.5m) for the 24 weeks to 13 September. Ticket sales grew 17 per cent to £2.46bn thanks to the launch of a mid-week TV draw, which has produced weekly sales of £27.1m and boosted returns to good causes by £200m. However the popularity of Instants cards continued to wane with weekly sales falling 9 per cent to £15.9m.

BOC results flat

BOC, the gases group, announced flat pre-tax profits of £445.2m for the year to 30 September despite the strength of sterling, which hit profits by £47.9m. BOC dismissed fears that the turmoil in the South-cast Asian markets would have a long-term affect on its international business. Danny Rosenkratz, chief executive said; "We invest for periods of more than 15 years. This is just a hiccup." The group has established a shortlist of buyers for its Ohmeda health division and is expected to receive firm bids next month.

US inflation edges up

Inflation in the US edged up last month. The rate of increase in consumer prices rose to 2.3 per cent from 2.2 per cent in September after a 0.2 per cent price rise during the month. Airline fares, tobacco and housing costs were the main culprits. New car prices declined and the rate of increase in medical costs slowed down. The overall rise was exactly as analysts had expected, so the financial market reaction to the figures was minimal

French police raid firms

French police arrested 100 people yesterday following early morning raids at 60 banking, computer and clothing businesses in Paris. The police said that those arrested included executives from the biggest French banks, but refused to name companies or individuals. The swoop, which involved more than 300 officers, was believed to be an attempt to smash a Fr1bn (£100m) fraud ring.

Northern Foods ahead

Northern Foods, the food and dairy group, announced an 18.7 per cent increase in underlying pre-tax profits to £68.6m for the six months to 30 September thanks to a strong performance from its prepared foods division. The group has talked to dairy rivals about joining forces but has yet to agree a deal.

Taylor Nelson in £119m merger with French rival

Taylor Nelson AGB, the market research company, yesterday trebled its size by merging with Sofres, its French competitor. The £119m acquisition created the world's fourth largest market information group, with a presence in 28 countries. Cathy Newman reports.

Tony Cowling, chief executive and managing director of Taylor Nelson, claimed vesterday that the deal made the company "genuinely global".

Taylor Nelson is the UK's biggest independent market research company, but it ranks only 15th in the world in terms of turnover. Sofres is the sixth biggest market research company in the world.

Mr Cowling, who will become executive chairman of the enlarged group, said Sofres complemented Taylor Nelson as both companies specialised in measuring TV audiences but in different countries. In the UK and France, Taylor Nelson's forte is in healthcare research, while Sofres has strengths in motor industry research.

Taylor Nelson is to raise £59m through a four-for-nine rights issue, which will offer more than 100 million new shares at 60p each, an underlying 12 per cent discount to the market price. Fimalac Communication, the French quoted company which controls Sofres. will take an 11 per cent stake in the enlarged company, at a cost of £28m. New credit facilities arranged by Société Générale will also help finance the merger.

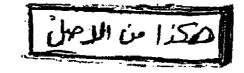
The two companies talked as long as two and a half years ago about the logic of coming together, Mr Cowling said. But the strength of sterling made the deal more appealing in recent months, and serious negotiations began about three months ago.

The deal is Taylor Nelson's second big acquisition in five years. It last launched a rights issue when it bought AGB from Maxwell Communications in 1992. That deal more than doubled the company's size, taking its turnover from £20m to £50m.

City analysts said that although the size of yesterday's deal could have raised alarm bells, in this case it looked attractive. Paul Richards, media analyst at Panmure Gordon, soid: "Financially the deal stacks up very well. Institutions won't be at all upset there's a rights issue."

Taylor Nelson's shares closed up 1.5p at 73.5p.

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
BOC (F)	3.68bn (3.75bp)	445.2m (444.9m)	59.31p (57.74p)	15.5p
apitol Group (I)	14.75m (11.16m)	1.88m (0.77m)	6.47p (6.74p)	1.80 (1.50)
Chamberlin & His (1)	13 84 (13.26m)	1,35m (D.83m)	13-29p (7.56p)	3p (2.6p)
launes Cropper (1)	26 98m (29 43m)	1.47m (2.65m)	1.4p (1.3p)	11p (19.2p)
De La Rue (I)	378 4m (391.9m)	56 3m (60 3m)	18 6p (19 7p)	7 Sp (7.5p)
interprise lons (F)	60 29m (38.11ar)	12.72m (5.34m)	18.24p (9 44p)	7.5 (6.75)
real Portland Estates (i)	- (-)	15 Aur (21 93m)	3.3 (5.1p)	29 (29)
laxuples Trust (!)	13 72m (18 90m)	0.53m (0.40m)	9.2p (-0.1p)	
Banafield Brewery (I)	88.06m (79.73)	11.46m (10.44m)	12.86p (11 6p)	2.35p (2.1p)
Marshalls (I)	138.7m (13-1.3m)	15.26m (13.7m)	6.76p (6.37p)	1.5p (1.5p)
Kertkern Foods (I)	907 7m (940 8m)	68 8m (59 Dm)	8.78p (7.48)	4.0p (3.8p)
Karthern Irefsed Elec (1)	210.7m (236.2m)	37 4m (52.0m)	21 Op (28 7p)	6 05p (5.50p)
Perpetual (F)	1 2750n (1.4580n)	59.6m(54.4m)	148.36p (135.41p)	62p (57p)
lasper Torneycraft (I)	93 17m (107 20m)	13.8m (12.7m)	28.30 (25.80)	8.75 (7.5)



Enterprise Oil falls from grace after production target warning

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

12.50 16.50

chief executive Pierre Jungels warned its production target would be missed.

Speaking at an oil industry conference in Norway he said the group's much-vaunted ambition to produce 320,000 barrels a day would have to be put back until 1999.

Although this year's output had been rather lacklustre Enterprise had appeared confident as recently as September that it was still on course to meet its signalled production levels. But Mr Jungels said next year's output was likely to be similar to this year's. His comments were immediately viewed as a disguised profit warning. They flowed over to Lasmo, off 6p at 275p.

Enterprise has had a heady stock market run. At one time shares were riding at 729.5p

High flying Enterprise Oil with a range of bullish stories fiasco comes as pressure denied it was launching a the US. PepsiCo is launching Société Générale Strauss crashed 43p to 609p after going the rounds. They were mounts for the Stock Exprice-cutting campaign. It alemonade style soft drink to Turnbull. Although the securegarded as one of the better kers and small investors. performing blue-chips.

390p was entirely fictional. For most of the session the group was traded between was elevated to top of the blue- ties operation. chip leader board with the

ing a 10.5 per cent gain, used in the final Footsie calculation. The latest order-driven phone war. The company

pulled back as the market change to make the system claimed the market should be challenge Cadbury's Sevencame off the boil but were still more friendly to agency bro-

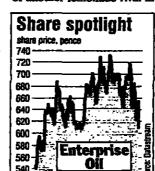
The market remained pre-The oil group's fall from occupied with Far Eastern grace was a major factor in Foot- affairs. Another rally in Tokyo sie's 21.6 points fall to 4,845.4. was undermined by a further But at least Enterprise's setback in Hong Kong and negative contribution was gen- suggestions the Japanese uine: Williams' 37p advance to market was set for a bumpy ride overnight.

Hopes of a financial deal fire protection and security still drifted around with National Westminster Bank 346p and 351p. Then as the up 12.5p to 883p. There is a market closed there was an growing conviction that order-book trade at 390p for NatWest has re-opened talks just 1,000 shares. Clearly some with Deutche Morgan Grenmistake. Even so Williams fell for the sale of its securi-

Vodafone misdialled, falling alleged 390p close, represent- 15.5p to 341.5p. A series of price cuts triggered suggestions it was starting a mobile tele-

growing at a faster rate and "it up and Coco-Cola's Sprite. is appropriate for the market Cadbury shares ended 1.5p leader to lead this new phase higher at 614.5p. of growth". Orange was

giving up 9p to 242p. Cadbury Schweppes shrugged off the appearance of another lemonade rival in



NDJFMAMJJASON

The latest takeover block group, lost an early gain to stick caught on the Vodafone line, by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, lowered Sears 3.5p to 54.5p. Sears, denied the chance of selling Freemans to Littlewoods, said it intends to demerge its home shopping operation with a cash handback to shareholders.

Northern Ireland Electricity, another handing over cash, around £8m. The group, forimproved 14.5p to 488.5p. Its merly Persona, expects an outexercise is, in effect, part of a

name change - to Viridian. Talk of bids, probably a lost 3.5p to 32.5p, lowest since management buy-out, gave Racal Electronic a 9.5p boost to 224p.

Billiton fell 5p to 170p de- pectations of cheerful interim spite warming noises from figures next week.

TAKING STOCK

rities house regards the metals

group as a buy it has lowered

at 11p after saying takeover talks

with third parties continue. The

shares have fallen from more

than 20p since August when ne-

Ilion, the computer distrib-

ution group, was the worst

casualty, falling 90p to 172.5p

after warning that year's prof-

its would not meet hopes of

turn in the £6m to £6.5m range.

its return. Majestic Wine bub-

bled 11p to a 320p peak on

Christmas sales hopes and ex-

207.50: 24.50 24.50 24.50 77.50 96.50 96.50 96.50 96.50 96.50 96.50 96.50 96.50 96.50

%59 Q00 6.44 B7 10.8 Q19 6.65 9081 10.75 Q00 6.65 945 10.34 Q0 6.51 856 10.4 Q0 6.77 10.44 Q00 6.77 10.4

Costain, the civil engineer,

gotiations were revealed.

Ronson, the huxury goods

its earnings forecasts.

Commonwealth Gold improved 3p to 13.5p on the fringe Ofex market after a banking consortium offered a 10-year £4.4bn facility for developing mineral assets in Liberia. In July CG, an arm of the South African Amalia Corporation, signed a deal with the Liberian Government which gave it access to the country's mineral resources, ranging from gold to offshore oil. The consortium could eventually acquire a 25 per cent stake in the venture. CG arrived on Ofex in April at around 40p a

Bickerton, a building contractor, has won contracts worth around £3.6m for educational buildings. The group, operating in public and private sectors, held at 43p against a 40p April placing. It is expected to make profits of £825,000, up from £232,000, this year.

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Stakeout at the bookies' corral

A long and bitter dispute between race tracks and bookmakers is close to a conclusion, and the outcome could affect punters everywhere.

You could call it racing's forgotten war were it not for the fact that hardly anyone except its protagonists was even aware it had started.

The battleground is the betting ring and over the last six years the people who own Britain's racecourses and the bookmakers who offer odds in their enclosures have talked themselves to a bitter standstill over proposals to change the way the ring is organised. And no-one has noticed, not the racegoers in the bars and on the terraces, and certainly not the punters in the off-course shops where the vast majority of British bets are placed.

Which is a shame, because a peace treaty will be imposed on the warring parties within the next 12 months, and if the arbitrators get it wrong, the long-term consequences for ordinary backers could be disastrous. Punters' representatives are concerned that the major Suny Bay is the new Martell off-course bookmakers will finally achieve a long-cherished ambition, and effectively take control of the prices which

are transmitted from the ring to be an on-course bookie, you successful," David Bowden, an to the country's betting shops by Satellite Information Services (SIS).

"It's the last piece in the jigsaw," Michael Singer, chairman of the National Association for the Protection of Punters, says. "They already have control of SIS, and they will be able to do as they please."

You do not need to be a shareholder in Ladbrokes to appreciate that major bookies doing as they please is hardly likely to work to the benefit... of punters. The reasons for Singer's concern - which are echoed by many on-course bookmakers - are complex, but originate, as do most of racing's internal disputes, in the structural anomalies of a sport which started out as an aristocratic hobby and turned, by legal fits and starts, into a bil-

lion-pound industry. For more than 30 years oncourse bookmakers have administered the betting rings through their trade association, the National Association of Bookmakers. They determine how many bookmakers will operate at any given meeting and who they will be, via a

system of seniority. This means that if you want ulation that's been terrifically Racecourse Association, says.

Grand National favourite at

16-1 (from 20-1) with Coral fol-

lowing yesterday's removal of

Lord Gyllene from the betting.

join a waiting list (often a very long one), before starting out in the poorest betting positions in the cheap enclosures and slowly working your way up (this, incidentally, explains why bookies in the best pitches, at the front near the Members' enclosure, rarely seem to be less

than 60 years old). No-one claims that the system is perfect, but from a punters' point of view at least, it does not work too badly. In all

BY GREG WOOD

the time that the NAB has administered pitches, not a single boards bookie has welched on his customers, and it is no coincidence that "John Batten", the infamous con-man who disappeared with thousands of pounds on Derby day, was standing on Epsom Hill, one of the only remaining betting sites that does not come under NAB control

"It's an example of self-reg-

Lord Gyllene could miss his Aintree defence

Lord Gyllene, winner of last

April's National, has a minor

leg injury and his trainer Steve

Brookshaw speculated yester-

day that the horse could be out

experienced on-course bookmaker, says. "People know each other and they make the policing system work."

The racecourses, however, argue that the ring does not cater adequately for their customers. Many bookies, for instance, refuse to offer each-way betting, and among those who do, the precise terms are down to the individual. The tracks would also like to remove the ban which prevents rails book-

makers - on the prime sites adjoining the big hitters of the Members' enclosure from displaying their prices on boards like the rest of the ring, something which the ordinary layers fear would remove much of their business at a stroke.

If so, this would also make much easier for the major offcourse chains, who are already represented on the rails, to manipulate the on-course mar-

Another source of irritation is the increasing proliferation of smart, well-appointed betting shops on racecourses. "The main concern is to provide comfort and choice for our customers," Morag Gray, of the

until next season. "It would be

a shame to risk everything this

year. We have to be certain

everything is right before he

does run," Brookshaw said.

"They want to be able to have small bets, and multiples, which they can't have in the ring, and as racecourse managers it would be shameful if we didn't want to provide that service."

What concerns the bookies, though, is that the track receives a commission on bets placed in the on-course shops, rather than a flat-fee rent for the site. This, they believe, gives the course a considerable incentive to persuade racegoers to bet at the shop rather than in the ring. Many of these new betting pavilions, what's more, are built with interest-free loans from the Levy Board. This could ultimately mean that money from off-course punters is being used to undermine the interests of the very people who have provided it.

"Of course, the racecourse owners are going to favour the bookmakers who give them the most income, and who can blame them?" John Morill, a veteran of the ring, says. "But the crux is, do the public and Parliament want to see a betting monopoly operated by the conglomerates, because we are gradually seeing the demise of the on-course bookmakers and the ring is being fragmented."

It is the Levy Board which has now been given the task of resolving the war of the ring. Their decision - which is legally binding - could shape the future of British betting. The punters who fund the Board, but have no official representation on it, can only hope that they get it right.



Boards of trade: Vying for business at Plumpton this week

HAYDOCK

1.10 Potter Again 1.40 Mithraic

2.10 Suny Bay

2.40 Thrower (nb) 3.10 Captain Khedive 3.40 CAMPAIGN (nap)

GOING: Good.

Lift-hand course with imposing drop fences and run-in of two furlongs.

Course is nr jurct of A580 and M8. Newton station 2m. ADMISSION: County Stand Ct5; Tattersells Ct; Newton Stand Et (CAP's half-price). CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 25 winners from 116 runners gives a success ratio of 216%, G Richards 23 from 89 (258%), N Twinton-Davies 18 from 63 (286%), Mrs M Reveley 13 from 59 (225).

LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dummondy 22 wins from 72 ridge gives a success ratio of 306%, D Bridgewater 11 from 44 (25%), A Maguire 11 from 47 (23.4%), A Dobbin 11 from 67 (16.4%).

FAVOURTIES: 127 win in -306 races (45.5%).

BLINKERED PIRST TIME: Euclide (2.10).

1 10 NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS POLICE MARES NOVICE HURDLE

П	1.10	(CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m Penalty Value £2,885
11	500-1	CLUB CARESEAN (70) (S P Mersh) P Hobbs 5 ft 0R Durswoody
2	501-6	ARDROM (15) (D) (F J Hagges) P R Webber 5 to 7
13	06-	GLEVUM (214) (Mrs J K Powell) N Twiston-Davies 5 10 7
4		HIZL FARM BILLIES (F20) (Cern's Newton) W M Brisbourne 4 10 7
5	0	I'M MAGGY (NZ) (7) (Starley W Clarke) S Brockshaw 7 10 7
6		KATHERYN'S PET (F19) (Bill Brown) Mrs M Reveley 4 107P Neven
7	6	MEADOW BLUE (14) (M R Marklow) Man L Siddell 4 107
8	0-6	NEEDLE THREAD (9) (Gott Foods Limited) G Richards 5 107
9	20F0-0	ONE STOP (75) (Michael Brennan) M Barnes 4 10 7
ľτ	214-1	POTTER AGAIN (15) (JE Potter) D Nicholson 5 10 7
11	034/0-	SECOND FEDDLE (265) (O Brenneri) O Brenneri 7 10 7
12		SOTATTIE (8) (Travor Hermings) Mrs S Smith 4 10 7R Guest
15	l	SUITAFELLA (Maurice Whenton) M Barnes 5 10 7
l x	0-04	THE LADY SCORES (13) (A F Loveride) K Belley 5 10 7

BETTIMS: 15-6 Potter Again, 9-2 Kathryn's Pet, 6-1 Club Caribbean, 7-1 Glevrum, 10-1 Ardrum, Nee-die Threed, Scientife, The Lady Scores, 16-1 citiers 1996: Marello 5 10 7 P Niven 2-1 (Mrs M Reveley) 11 ran FORM GUIDE

POTTER AGAIN should win this or her hurdes debut efter the success in bumpers at Bangor and Exeter. As with the latest success, Potter Again is against her own sex and she showed herself as good as ever at Exeter on her resposarance when smoothly disposing of her 13 rivals. As half-eister to Monday's Leicester winner, Potter's Gele, she does not took too highly the Atlati-eister lo Monday's Leicester winner, Potter's Gele, she does not took too highly the. There are doubts whether staying Flat winner Kathryn's Pet has the necessary toe to beat Potter Again on level terms. Many Reveloy has won twice with her and this will have been a target siter Marelo last year, but Kathryn's Pet can only be facuced for a place. Andross was a slow whning bumper mans last term and will probably again find two miles too short after her lature over hurdies at Towcester, Club Carlibbean, without of a novices' handicap at Exeter on her reappearance, will find this a lot tougher,

conceding 7to to the Nicholson runner. Glevum is a likely outsider after two bumper runs and is preferred to fast-ground bumper winner Sotatile. Selection: POTTER AGAIN

1.40 LIVERPOOL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m Penalty Value £2,717

FORM GUIDE

Frank Jordan has SAINT CIEL in top condition for a repeat win after the crules from Circus Line and Desert Fighter in the race 12 months ago. Already a winner on the track four times, Saint Clet has Adrian Maguire aboard, and two attempts behind Throker will have set him up nicely. He finished in front of Miles Roberto on the first of them and, with Miles set him up nicely he finished in front of Miles Roberto on the first of them and, with Miles. Roberto winning at Worcester since, Saint Clei can meet her on 3lb better terms. Any fur ther dig in the ground is to Saint Clefs fevour and it is difficult to see the ileas of Devilry and the chaser Bone Setter (first run back after a lengthy leyoff) beating him. Mithraid could be the forecast bet back over two miles after a couple of sound efforts over trips that could have stretched his stamina.

Selection: SART CIEL

2.10 EDWARD HANMER MEMORIAL CHASE (LIMITED HAND-ICAP) (CLASS B) \$40,000 added 3m Penalty Value \$27,048

FORM GUIDE

The handicapper must have lost his formbook letting SEE MORE SUSINESS receive 8b from Unguided Missile. With two cracking efforts in Ireland against Dorans Pride, See More Business would not have been suited to the sharp turns at Kempton on his final start when he departed at the 11th in the Racing Post Chase. With enough dig in the ground to suit, See More Business has an outstanding chance off 11st 4b. Unguided Mealls loves jumping these big fences, but he was getting 12b from both Couldn't Be Better and Gales Cavalier when wrining this last year. This is a tougher test for him now that he concedes weight all round. He jumping ability will have some of these in trouble, but there are still

some talented rivals in opposition. Martin Pipe puts the binkers on the baby of the par-ty, Euclipe, who has been the subject of support for the Hennessy. A win here will put him up to 11st 3th at Newbury, and he was a winner on the course (beet the smart Sim-ply Deshing) prior to his second to Hensidham in the Sun Alliance at Cheltenham. Grand National numer-up Surry Bay pinged these lences to best into The Rad last season. He was badly in need of the first start last season and further rain would increase his chance was badly in need of the first start last season and further rain would increase his chance no and. The Last Filing is 7th out of the handicap, but he has a leading chance after a recent second to Caliboo Bay at Uttoseter. Jumping errors stopped him from beating Cyborgo at Aritrea, and the fourth last caught him out when in contention in the Sun Alarca at Chelhenham. The Last Fing is now 18to better off with Eudipe in this handicap, owill be a leading contender provided he does not make too many jumping mistakes. It is doubtful this is the ideal jumping track for Go Ballistic, while General Wolfe, despite a win hare first time up last season, may find the company too hot. Kadl'a pulled up effort at Uttosetis' offers little encouragement, but he does have some pace about him and 10st 5th (2th out of the handicap) gives him a chance. Selection: SEE MORE BUSINESS

2.40 HINDLEY GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) 25,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,404 7 _____F Leahy (3) next) Mrs M Reveley 4 71 3 P Neven 15 10 19

BETTING: 9-4 No More Hessie, 3-1 Canton Vanture, 4-1 Major Harris, 5-1 Mative Field, Throws,

BETTING: 9-4 No More Heasts, 3-1 Canton Venture, 4-1 Major Herris, 5-1 Mative Field, Thrower, 10-1 Bell Staffboy
1998: Relymany loff 5 11 0 E Calleghen (5) 3-1 (J. Jefferson) 5 zur
FORM GUIDE
With Canton Venture taking in a hotter race start he minor tracks, the choice is THROWER, a winner with plenty in hand from Seitt Clei on the course a fortright ago. That followed an equally easy success from Soldier Mak (Seint Clei third) at Bangor, and lest
week's detest under a penality in a novice at Sedgefield (third to Country Orchid) can easily be excused. Back in a handicap over a longer trip that is bound to suit and getting
weight from them all. Thrower rates a decant bet. Canton Venture has been a hardy sortunder both rules, but he made heavy weather of beating Run For Daris at Fortivel lest
time and Thrower is fancied to outstay him today on this tougher track. Major Harris, narrow winner of a novice at Wetherby, but he meets a better type in Thrower today. No More
Hassels's last run was in the Triumph Hurdie. He best Globe Runner on the course beforeighted and the big supprise is that Mary Reveley has not given thin a pipe-opener on
the Rat. He has a turn of foot and is the one Thrower has to see off. Bell Staffboy, winner of three chases last term, pulled up over fences at Kempton on his respectance and
its looks a confidence booster for him. Native Field completes the fire up and is sat a
stiff task after the lengthy ley-off.

3.10 WARGRAVE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £4,486

— o oscaretz — Mikimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Nickle Joe St 4lb. BEITTING: 9-4 Pango Werleg, 3-1 Rustic Alt, Wayuphili, 9-2 Captain Khadive, 11-2 Master Bo 1998: Thumbs Up 10 12 0 R Dunwoody 13-8 fav (G McCourt) 5 ran

1996: Thurbs Up 10 12 0 H Durwoody 13-8 ser (6 McCourt 5 sm FORM GUIDE This is a tricky race, but one which Graham McCourt would have planned for Captain Khediwe having won it lest year with Thurbs Up. Decent on his day with Philip Hobbs and Paul Mcholls, Captain Khediwe could just be a rejuventaed sort after a hurburn 18 days ago. Pongo Waring has had wind operations and ideally wants fastish ground, but he is bound to go close after a good effort (blundered two out) against Abavard at Exeter last time. But WAYUPHILL beat Mr President here last season when trained by Jorio ONAII and this hooks a similar operation for the men. Twice over hurdes this term. Desir last time. But WAYUPHILL bear Mr Presonant here ast season when trained by Jonio O'Nell and this looks a similar opening for the man. Twice over hundles this term (won at Carlste), her seconds over fences, including last week's with a big weight against Coqui Lane at Kelso, were over a trip too short, so she must take the beating on a return to two and a half. Rustic Air beat The Toester at Sedgefield last term and, while he is tricky to catch right, he looks dangenous here over his best trip with Richard Durwoody aboard. Master Boston or Nicide Joe showed any form – the latter being 10to out of the handicap after a hundles run a fortnight ago.

3 40 EARLESTOWN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 7f 110vds Penalty Value \$2.801

Campaign, 14-1 Landed Gentry, Signe Wireless 1998: Hallo Dorring 6 12 2 C Llewellyn 8-13 fav (N Twiston-Davies) 4 zan FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

INDICATOR was a promising novice who duly won against just three modest rivels at Wetherby 10 days ago. This will be more competitive but indicator, again with Adrian Meguire aboard, appeals as the type to follow. Campatign, winner over a similar trip at Doncaster two sessons ago, has had a recent run on the Flat and promises to go well on his third of Purevelle at Wetherby last term. Landied Sentry, who used to win with a sizeable weight when trained by Chris Broad, showed promise over a trip too short at Chepstow on his responsarance. John O'Shea is bound to win with him, but more testing ground is want-tend. Hit The Cannas has done his winning on a faster succe and this second start after missing all of last season could just be wented. Hoodwinter returned to his amart form of two seasons ago when narrowly beating Saucy Nun at Uttoester 22 days ago, while there is every chance Churley Lambert will improve again after beating Pentland Squire in a novice at Newcastle 16 days ago. He showed promise tast term and has a live chance provided the ground stays good.

Selection: NDICATOR

HEREFORD

HYPERION 1.00 Vent D'Aout 1.30 Ryton Run 2.00 Gutteridge 2.30 Whispering Court 3.00 Welsh Silk 3.30 Mystic Isle 4.00 Little Red Spider

GOING: Good to Soft.

GOING: Good to Soft.

Right-hand course with 300yd run-in.

Rececourse is N of city on Aris, Heristord station 1m. ADMISSION: Cub.

Place Source is N of city on Aris, Heristord station 1m. ADMISSION: Cub.

Cit; Extressels SR; Course Enclosure SS CAR PARIK: Free.

LEADING TRANSPERS: M Pipe 32-04 (34%), N Twiston-Davise 29-01 (280%),

K Ballary 12-67 (109%) D Nicholson 9-27 (33.3%).

G LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 28-85 (300%), C Lieuwillyn 20-71 (28.2%),

B Fenton 7-28 (25%), S Wysnie 5-45 (71.1%).

FAVOURITES: 97-500 (39.4%).

B LINKERED FIRST TIME: Don't Tell Tone (300).

1.00 MARDEN JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3YO 2m 1f 2221 PRAFFE MINISTRE (4) R DIGHT 15 2
DIE PLEERMALS MISS H (4) R DIGHT 10 2
DIE PLEERMALS MISS H KNIGHT 10 2
RETCHER (732) H Morrson 10 2
KINGSDOWN TRUK (6) R Smith 10 2
KRABLOONIK (FR) (22) W G M Turner 10 2
P TRENTA ME (22) P DIGHT 10 12
LIFGRADE N TRISHO-DIGHTS 10 2
AUNT DARHNE (F141) MIS L FICHMICS 10 7. _J FTEle w w AUNT DAPHNE (F141) Mrs L Richards 10 7.
BBLLE DANCER (F351) T Wall 10 7.
RUSH OF BLOOD (F75) M Sheppard 10 7.
VENT D'AOUT (F41) M Pig. 10 7.

- 12 declared -REI IDIC: 2-1 Preirie Minstrel, 5-2 Vent d'Acot, 7-2 Upgrade, 8-1 Die Fied. 12-1 Krabiconik, 16-1 Cherokse Flight, 25-1 Aunt Dephna, 33-1 others

. 6

1.30 BACTON AMATEUR RIDERS' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,800 added 2m 3f

2.00 BRIDSTOW SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE 5 (CLASS G) 22,400 added 2m 1f 22240 LANCER (415) (D) R Judies 6 11 10...... 40/4-5 ALDINGTON CHAPPLE (8) T Wall 8 11 7. lary Lyons Whish (7) COMPONEUP (334) J M Bradley 6 % 6 ..

2.30 PADDY MORRISSEY NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 2m CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 800000
32835 VERDE LIMA (10) R Smith 5 12 0.
0/034 SCARLET RAMELER (15) Mag H Knight 6 11 10.
42796 BOLD ACRE (285) (C) J M Bradley 7 11 8.
42796 BOLD ACRE (285) (C) J M Bradley 7 11 8.
60341 HASH MOOD BOY (18) (C) (D) K Balley 8 11 8.
60341 HASH MARSHOR (19) (D) T GROUP 7 11 4.
60341 HASH MARSHOR (25) A Carrolf 7 11 3.
60341 WHASPERBERG COURT (7) A Turnel 7 10 10.
60341 WHASPERBERG COURT (7) A Turnel 7 10 10.
60344 COOL WEATHER (21) C Pophen 9 10 10.
60344 C ONDERTS (16) Mrs L Rizhards 8 10 8.
6034 PLAY GAMES 627 8 Las 9 10 5 1/FO-P PLAY GAMES (87) R Les 8 10 5 50859- WORTHY MEMORIES (212) Mrs M Jones 8 10 5 56 530 POOH STICK (14) R Frost 7 10 3 P2/P. COOL SPOT (248) G Enight 9 10 0. 00/0PO DOSSES DAN (39) B Prece 5 10 0.

3.00 BISHOPS FROME NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110ydsG Hogan (3) 00-1/2 BAY FAIR (18) M R Books 511 10 LEPT BACING HAWK (12) P Boxen 5 11 7_

2	UUUEO	שבובאר פונה (ווני) (פר) ע מאנינומנים ע (ווני) ווני מאנינומנים אוני (ווני) אוני איני
B	/2004-	SHANNON LAD (224) A Certal 7 to 8
7	02/00-	SHANNON LAD (224) A Certal 7 10 8 D Monte FRED FUGGLES (266) C Jackson 5 10 1 E Powell KENNETT SOLARE (259) Lady E Maye-Smith 8 10 0 J A McCarthy
8	00/0P-	KENNETT SOLIARE (259) Lady E Maya-Smith 8 10 0 J A McCarday
9	PP/OP	ANGLOGUE (334) R Editory 5 to 0 Y Stationy SOPHES DREAM (12) J M Bradley 6 to 0 Gay Lewis (3)
10	OPO-PO	SOPHES DREAM (12) J N Bradey 6 10 0
Ħ	P4R08-	LADY ROSEBURY (176) R.J. Price 7 10 0
		- 11 declared -
Med	mum web	fit: 10st. True handicep weights: Kennett Square Sat 13fb, Analogue Sat
		Dream Set 3fb, Lady Rosebury Bet 13fb.
	100 2	Weish Silk, 5-2 Bay Fair, 7-2 Don't Tell Tom, 10-1 Mensayan, 12-1
Desi	ina Mauk	Shappon Lad, 25-1 Fred Fuggles, 33-1 others
	100	Partition may be the cidency and areas
	00	BOGMARSH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m 1f 110yds
]3	.3U	CA EON added 3m 1f 110ude
		14,300 added 3ill it i loyds
1	/43-1F	IDEAL PARTNER (19) (BP) P Nichole B 11 5
2	/BP1-1	LOVABLE OUTLAW (11) Miss M Rowland 6 11 5
3		GOWER-SLAVE (15) (D) P Bower 5 11 3W Marston
4	PU-UP8	BEBBULBIN (14) JALES 7 to 12 Finday
5	OOP-P	JEMARO (12) W Jerics 6 to 12
8	12022	JEMARO (12) W Jerics 6 10 12
7	10225	SCOTEY (BEL) (231) A Budder 7 to 12B Powell
8	000-54	HAND WOVEN (8) N Telston-Davise 5 to 10
9	0	GABLES GIFIL (82) A Foster 6 107B CREGord
BET	TING: 2-1	Mystic Isls, 7-2 Lovebia Outlant, 4-1 Hand Wover, 9-2 Gower-Slave,
7-1 1	deel Ped	nec, 16-1 Scotter, 33-1 citiens
ÍΔ	ഹ	WEATHERBYS MARES NH FLAT RACE
		(CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 1f
•		WEATHERBYS MARES NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 1f
1	12	(CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 1f LATIN MISTRESS (30 (D) P Notate 5 ft 7
2	8	LATIN MISTRESS (34) (D) P Nichole 5 ft 7
2	0	LATIN MISTRESS (34) (D) P Nichole 5 ft 7
2 3 4	0	LATIN MISTRESS (34) (D) P Nichole 5 ft 7
2 3 4 5	12 0 2 6	LATIN MESTRESS (S4) (D) F Nichole 5 ft 7
2 3 4 5	12 0 2 6 5/4	LATIN MISTRESS (54) (D) P Nichole 5 1; 7
2 3 4 5 6 7	12 0 2 6 5/4	LATIN MISTRESS (S4) (D) P Nichole 5 1; 7
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	12 0 2 6 5/4 0	LATIN MISTRESS (\$4) (D) P Nichole 5 1; 7
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	12 0 2 6 5/4 0	LATIN MISTRESS (\$4) (D) P Nichole 5 1; 7
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 10	22 0 2 6 5/4 0 P-	LATIN MISTRESS (34) (D) P Nichole 5 11 7
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	22 0 2 6 5/4 0 P-	LATIN MISTRESS (34) (D) P Nichole 5 11 7
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	22 0 2 6 5/4 0 P-	LATIN MISTRESS (34) (D) P Nichole 5 11 7
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	22 0 2 6 5/4 0 P-	LATIN INISTRESS (S4) (D) P Nichole 5 11 7
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	22 0 2 6 5/4 0 P-	LATIM MISTRESS (\$4) (D) P Michole 5 1) 7

0002-8 WELSH SILK (10) (SF) D Gandolio 5 71 0.

1 Latin Mistress, 9-1 Little Hulton, 12-1 Little Red Spider, Ruby Ross, 14-1 La Rigantine, Where's Miranda, 16-1 Trojan Love, 20-1 others

GOING: Good to Soft. Right-hand course. Practically flat. Stiff fences ● Rececures is on A308 at Surbury. Bus link from Richmond Underground station. Kempton Park railway station edjoins course. ADMRSSION: Club & Grandstand £10; Silver Ring £5. CAR COURS ADMRSSIONE CAID & GRANDSBARD ETC, SEVEY FING £5. CAR PARKE, Members £2; remainder, free. ● LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 19-69 (275%), K Ballery 11-51 (215%), M Pipe 10-49 (20-4%), N Henderson 10-69 (145%), ● LEADING JOCKEYS: M A Fitzgerid 17-69 (125%), N Weishmoon 14-68 (205%), A P NicCoy 9-65 (325%), G Bradley 6-54 (111%).

KEMPTON

liuence Pedier

FAVOURITES: 114 wirs from 282 races (40.4%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Big Mett (2.50). 1.20 ROSEMARY GILLARD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m

HYPERION

1.20 Alke International 1.50 Kadastrof 2.20 Mi-

das 2.50 Big Matt 3.20 Act Of Faith 3.50 In-

030-32 HOLUHAM BAY (13) L Wordingham 5 10 Ti ... R Thombol JOSE PLOW BACK (188) G Enright 5 TO 10 ... L Am FPP-31 MEMORY'S MUSIC (6) M Marganick 5 10 9 (bes) P Henri 55008 DIGPAST (14) J Bridger 7 10 7 ... M Betchelor 5-00US MICHYDONEY BOY (13) Z C Design 8 TO 0 ... C McCommeck

-8 declared Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Inchydoney 9st 5th.
BETTING: 11-4 Sadies's Resim, 4-1 Cliffon Game, 5-1 Alica International, 11-2 Flow Back, Memory's Music, 6-1 Holldam, Bay, 14-1 Digmat,

1.50 STAINES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m GF FLORLESS GLIV (1334) R Howe 8 11 0 ______ D O'Sulfivan 4PP-P2 HIGHLAND FLANE (23) A Bickimore 8 11 0 ___ Henley (3) 60042 KADASTROF (13) (0) (8P) R Dickin 7 11 0 __N Williamson FROM KONGSPOLD PET (258)(D) M Haynes 8 11 D.M A Picaparald APS-33 MORDANSK (13) (D) M Madginek 8 11 0 _____ G Upton FOTH STRONG PALADIN (248) J Gifford 8 11 0 _____ P Hide — B declared —

BETTRIC: 13-8 Karbatrol, 15-8 Strong Palatis, 5-1 Nordansk, 11-2 Kings-fold Pet, 8-1 Highland Flame, 20-1 Floriess Gey

2.20 E.B.F. 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m

2.50 LIMBER HILL CHASE (LIMITED HAND-ICAP) (CLASS B) £7,000 2m 4f 110yds

3.20 GIGASPEED NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m

BETTING: evens Menesonic, 2-1 Act Of Falth, 9-2 Fair Society, 8-1 Way-ward King, 20-1 Street Trader, Triple Treat

3.50 HANWORTH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) 25,000 added 2m 5f

(CLASS C) 25,000 200ded 2m 57
/062- FRED EARTH (222) (C) J Fernshee 9 2 0 R Thornton (S)
2033-2 SIFLUENCE PEDLER (14) (D) J Old 4 II 7 ... N Williamson
1FF12- GROOVING (190) (BF) J Gifford 8 II 5 Hidde
340F FREEDSHIP (210) (BF) N Hendescon 5 II 0M A Flogerabl
531F FROVAL PIPER (RQ) (14) A J William 10 10 10 L Harvey
131P-4 TUKARIO (CAN) (S2) J Jerkins 6 IO 3 M Aham
U-23 SOLIFIES COCKSION (15) R Curis 4 IO Q Supple (S)
1835-4 SMUGGLER'S POINT (14) J Bridge 7 IO 0 L Aspell (3)
- 8 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Squire's Occasion 9st 13th,

Snuppler's Point 9ct 12th. BETTING: 3-1 Friendship, 4-1 influence Pedier, 5-1 Squire's Occasion 6-1 Royal Piper, 7-1 Tulamo, 8-1 Grooving, 10-1 others

RACING RESULTS

THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESOLTS HAYDOCK 971 981 972 982 KEMPTON 973 983 HEREFORD

WETHERBY 1.10: 1. CAULKER (STaylor) 25-1; 2. The otherwick Kird 11-2; 3. Revolt 5-1 it isv.

23 ran. 5-1 jt fav Trojan Risk (4th). Hd. 2'4. (M Barnes, Perntin). Tota: 29150; 223.00, 2280, 5320 DF: 233620. CSF: 23652. Tro: 1.40: 1. FOREST NORY (A Megure) 4-7 fav; 2. Maybe O'Grady 13-2; 3. Jervauh: 8-1 6 ran. 17, 1/k (D Nicholeon, Temple Guiting) Tota: \$150; \$140, \$210 DF: \$310. CSF: \$3.86.

2.10: 1. LORD DISCORD (R Thomism)
5-1; 2. Brockune Line 4-1; 3. Silent Valley 25-1 9 rax. 6-4 fav The Real McCoy (Sh),
174, 3. (T Essiarby, Mation). Take: \$5.50; £190,
£180, £3.80. DF: £3.10. CSF: £23.28. This PHREC NR: Auto Avian.

2.40: 1. CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE (R Ganity) 9-2; 2. Certainly Strong 13-8 fav; 3. Native Mission 9-1.5 ran, Nr. 1/2. (T Easterby, Maiton). Total: \$4.0; \$1.00, \$1.20. DF: \$2.70. CSF; \$1.50. NR; Major Beil.

3.10: 1. SPEAKER WEATHERILL (M Brennan) 6-4 jt fav; 2. Lord of The West 64 ft ter; 3. Pinns Gunner 3-1 3 ram. 22, 3 (O Brannen, Worksop). Totae £2.20. DF: £140, CSF: £357.

3.40: 1. BRANCHER (R Burns) 6-1; 2. Six Clertes 7-2; 3. Amering Sall 7-1 6 ren-9-4 few Scarba (491), 9, 1%. (J Turner, York). Tota: \$890; \$330, \$240, DF: \$1330, CSF: Placepoit £162.50. Quadpoit £46.40. Place 6: £13762, Place 5: £4129.

NEWTON ABBOT 1.00: 1. CHAMPLEVE (A P McCoy) 1-4 fav; 2. Desert Power 40-1; 3. Alliford Sound 5-1 10 ran. Dist, 9; (M Figs. Wellington) Tolas 120: £130, £230, £230, DF: £550, CSF: £955. Tho: £1780, NF: Dines. 1.30: 1. LAKE KARIBA (T.J Marphy) 5-2 for 2. Zibboth Tol-2. Morean Bird 4-1.6 can. 1.30: 1. LAKE KARIBA (T.J Murphy) 5-2 (av; 2. Zabadi 7-2; 3. Mouse Bird 4-1 for ran. 2; 3/s. (P. Nichola, Shepton Melled, Rote: £380, £10, £20: DF: £380, CSP: £1006. 2:00: 1. BRIGHSTONE (A P. McCoy) 8-5 (av; 2. Coair Bathard 9-1; 3. Haydown 1-1 8 ran. 2, 11. (M. Pipe, Wellington), Tota: £170, £170, £170, £170, £170, £170, £170, £171, £171, £171, £171, £171, £171, £171, £171, £171, £171, £171, £172, £172, £173, £173, £174, £175, £173, £174, £175,

3,80: 1. DOM SAMOURAJ (A P McCoy) 4-1; 2. Penncaler 3-1; 3. Bramblehill Buck 7-4 tex, 5 ran. 2 dist, (M Pipe, Welling) ton), Tota: £4.70; £2.20, £140, DF: £950, CSF:

3.30: 1. DEANO'S BEENO (A P McCoy) 8-11 far; 2. Royale Angels 10-1; 3. Harbet House 11-2. 8 mm. 4. dist. (M Pipe, Welling-101). Totak £180; £110, £280, £190. DF: £880. CSF: £860. Tricast: £2586. RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Kathryn's Pet (Haydock 1.10) NB: See More Business (Haydock 2.10)

4.00: 1. MUSKHILL (R Massey) 7-4; 2. Knock Leader 4-5 far; 3. Beefy Nove 16-1 15 ram. 7, 23. (D Nicholson, Temple Guiting). Total 53-0; 510, 510, 520, DF; 5170, CSF. 23.4. Trio: 27.90. NR: Willet Wizard. Placapot: 597.80. Quadpot: 531.90. Placa & £25.65. Placa 5: £21.82.

LINGFIELD (AW) LINGFIELD (AW)

12.20: 1. DANCING NYSTERY (5 Carson) 8-1; 2. Opening Bange 5-1; 3. Nobalino 5-1. 10 ran. 7-2 fav Aroksto. 1½, ½, (E Wheeler). Tota: 52230; 5880, 9430, 5190. DF: £490, CSF: 54474. Tricast: \$20928.

12.50: 1. PALACEGATE JACK (C Lowther) 2-1 far; 2. Wister Raider 7-1; 3. Tear Write 8-1. 10 ran. hd, 1 (J Berry). Tota: \$230; \$120, \$580, \$460. DF: \$2120. CSF: \$2774, Tricast: \$2962. Tric: \$5150.

1.20: 1. SLIM PRIOR (D Sweeney)

10-1; 2. Mystagogue 5-2 far; 3. Muja's Mag-le 8-1, 13 ran, nk, 4. (K Burts), Tota: 2-430; 28:10, 21:80, 21:80. DF; 236:80, CSF; 234:28, 1.50: 1, LIFT THE OFFER (Dane Official) 13-11: L. Baresian 4-1; 3. Miss Skye 16-1; 3. Night Vigit 11-10 km, 9 mm. 4, 6, (R Ham-non). Tote: £13-10; £150, £150, Night Vigit £0.50, Miss Skye £2.50. OF: £1850, CSF £25.63. Tricast; with Night Vigit £43.50, (with Miss Skow). £254.34.

23353. Tricast: (with Night Vigit) 24380, (with Miss Skye) 235434.
220: 1. MASSYAR SEVENTEEN (J. Quinn) 5-1; 2. Bedooin Honda 15-8; 3. Inforest 12-1 17 ran. 2/s. 10. (H. Colingridge). Totas: 2830; 2230, 5250, 5380. . DF: £670. CSP: £352. Tric: £7840.
250: 1. ROYAL ROULETTE (A Card) 9-1; 2. Another Monk 20-1; 3. Statejack 8-1; 4. Areish 33-1, 17 ran. 9-2 (av Castias Burnlag, 61-1-1d, 11/s. (Miss 8 Sanders). Totas £1440; £270, £850, £200, £1530. DF:

2151440. CSF: £19076. Treast: £110564 3.20: 1. WHISPERED MELODY (T Quint) 5-1: 2. Mustang 9-1; 3. Witchtinder 3-1 fex 9 ran. 1, 11/4. (F. Alchurst, Toke; £550; £160, £2.20. £170 DF: £1640. CSF: £4782. Tilcagt:

3.50: 1. CHURCHILL'S SHADOW (Marnowyer) 15-2; 2. Aegean Sound 25-1; 3.
Barbason 11-4 tax. 8 ran. str-ho, 1₆. (8
Peane). Tole: £700; £170, £330, £150. DF:
26630. CSF: £7667.3 Tricast: £56580
Jackpot: not won (pool of £54275 carried torward to Haydock today).
Placepot: £5820 (Quedpot: £2510.
Place 6: £7154. Place 5: £2407. Whispered Melody, Reg Alcehurst's lest runner as a trainer before he retires, duly obliged at Lingfield yesterday, scoring by a length and a half from Mustang at 5-1.

3.50: 1. CHURCHILL'S SHADOW MAIN

Now the men have finished their smash 'n' grab raid at the ATP Championships in Hannover, it is the turn of the women to battle it out over their end of

season booty.

New York.

With the "Race to the Chase" completed, the leading 16 singles players and top eight dou-

bles teams are here, pursuing

Jane Marlow reports from

the biggest portion of the \$2m cause I had a pretty good in-(£1.25m) pie.

Madison Square Garden has already been the sight of some unexpected casualties. The serve and volley onslaught of France's Nathalie Tauziat proved too much for the No 4 seed, Amanda Coetzer, who, in spite of large support from a small crowd, went down in straight sets, 6-3, 6-3 on the first

"It's disappointing," said Coetzer, who won her second singles title of the year last October in Luxembourg. "Be-

day of the WTA Chase Cham-

door season and really felt this could have been one of those times when I could have come [here] and done well."

Tauziat, 30, whose win broke a four-year duck at the tournament, joined her compatriot Mary Pierce in the quarter-finals. It was only the No 8 seeded Romanian Irina Spirlea's defeat of another French player, Sandrine Testud, who stopped it being une véritable nuit française.

There was upset in the doubles, too. A first-round defeat was hardly fitting for the fan's

favourite and doyenne of dou- Being runner-up in a tight bles, Gigi Fernandez, in the final tournament of her career, but, alongside partner Natasha Zvereva, she bowed out in three sets to Helena Sukova and Larisa Neiland.

With 12 singles titles under her belt already this year, Martina Hingis has looked like the form horse coming into these championships, but had she glanced over her shoulder she would have been Lindsay Davenport steaming into town. The 21-year-old American seems to have timed her surge

up the rankings to perfection.

three-set final against Hingis at the Advanta Championships last week took her to No 2 in the world, knocking Jana Novotna off her perch and attaining a career-high in the process.

Davenport, whose ranking has dipped in and out of the top 10 since 1994, has in the past been criticised for lacking speed and mobility in her game. She puts her improved form down not to dieting but to extra time on the practice court.

"I am dedicated to my sport," she said recently. "I worked hard and lost a lot of

weight. I go to the gym more. I'm stronger and have more stamina. I'm stronger late in the week and at this time of year."

Although weight might have caused some problems, her height has only been an. advantage. The 6ft 2in Califormian could easily have followed in her parents' footsteps and been lured into a career in volleyball. "I started playing tennis when I was seven years old," Davenport said, "All my family were into volleyball but

I liked tennis and I just kind of stuck with it." Having won six singles titles

all but doubled a career tally that includes an Olympic gold medal, she must be confident. that she made the right decision.

Groundstrokes and a powerful serve are the elements. that characterise Davenport's game. "I'm not flashy," she admits. "You don't see me hit many drop volleys."

Yet she is a formidable doubles player, too. The combination of her baseline power and Novotna's prowess at the net has made mem the No 3 seeds. Today it is her former doubles partner, the unseeded



Davenport: 'Dedicated'

Mary Joe Fernandez, who stands between Davenport and a place in the quarter-finals.

Fitzpatrick remains on sidelines

Sean Fitzpatrick's knee injury means the New Zealand captain will his second successive Test on Saturday. Worse still, as Steven Baker reports, his rugby union career may be in doubt.

Sean Fitzpatrick, the most capped player in All Black history, has conceded defeat in his fight to be fit for Saturday's first Test against England at Old Trafford.

The hooker says his longstanding knee injury, which saw him sit out last week's win over Ireland, may even force him to retire. The 34-year-old started yesterday's training session at Morley rugby club but he was clearly in discomfort and he spent much of the morning barking out orders to his fellow squad members and in discussion with the coaching staff.

Fitzpatrick, who has won 91 caps, was part of the All Blacks side which won the inaugural World Cup in 1987 and he led New Zealand when they lost the 1995 final to South Africa.

Fitzpatrick made his international debut against crossed." France in 1986 and went nine years and 63 matches without missing a Test. He has has led his country 49 times - becoming the first New Zealand captain to win a Test series in South Africa in the process - and he

has lifted the Tri-Nations tournaments with the All Blacks and enjoyed Super 12 success with Auckland.

Now, though, Fitzpatrick realises his troublesome knee could bring a premature end to what has been a wonderful playing career.

"I've never had an injury like this before and that sort of thing is going through my mind," he

"I'm trying to be philosophical about it. Now is not the right time to make that decision. I won't continue to play if it's not right."

Fitzpatrick added that his prospects of playing on the tour were getting slimmer by the day. "We'll see how it goes but in terms of games, it's getting towards the end of the tour," he said.

"It's aching a bit. I'm more pessimistic about playing on the tour now than I was last week." The New Zealand coach,

John Hart, has not given up on his captain making a recovery. "We've got another two weeks to go, so we are not writing him "He's very fit so he could

come in and play at no notice at all. We're keeping our fingers Fitzpatrick stressed that

despite the injury, he was still keen to play an active part in training sessions and try to assist his team-mates as much as possible

'The biggest thing for me is



As the All Blacks trained yesterday, a knee injury meant that Sean Fitzpatrick's role was restricted to holding the tackle bag

to make sure I help the guys season despite his injury. "I've at Wembley giving the nationthrough the tour and make it got to look at taking three or al coach, Kevin Bowring, 10

there is no point me walking ter [Little] gave his a good break wishes. round the hotel feeling glum for

Fitzpatrick maintained he

and I've got to do that." Wales' top clubs have agreed to an early release of would still be battling to be fit their international players for for the next New Zealand the match against New Zealand

four months off. I'm looking at days' uninterrupted build-up mid-April. It needs rest. Wal- after the clubs complied with his

> "The national team management accepted the need for the players to prepare properly for the Heineken Cup campaign with their clubs,"

said a Welsh Rugby Union spokesman.

"It was recognised how imrtant that was to their prospects, and we welcome the fact that the clubs have seen fit to return the favour with the New Zealand game

approaching." Wales second row Steve

Dixon wary of Wallaby backlash

The Scotland captain, Richie Dixon, insists that Australia will still provide his new look side with an awesome challenge on Saturday despite their unconvincing recent form under their new coach, Rod Macqueen.

After losing in Argentina and only managing a draw against England at Twickenham last Saturday, the Wallabies are under pressure to finish their tour on a high at Murrayfield.

With Scotland naming an attack-minded line-up, including newwing sensation James Craig, some pundits are optimistically talking up their chances of pulling off a shock victory against the 1991 World Cup winners.

Dixon maintained, however, that Scotland's task remained a daunting one, warning of a possible Wallaby backlash on Saturday. He said: "Australia have a proud record in this country and make no mistake, they will be very strong apponents for us on Saturday.

"I watched their game with England and both sides would be disappointed that the play did not develop as they would have liked.

"With any new coach, it takes time to come up with ultimate conclusions on the way you want to play and Rod is still developing the style he wants.

"If it develops in the same way as with ACT, then the world can expect some very exciting football from Australia in next couple of years."-

Dixon said he had no qu about bringing in Duncan Hodge for only his second cap, to replace the injured Rowen Shepdamage and the Moseley lock herd at full-back. Hodge will also assume goal-kicking duties.

All Blacks' strength leaves Woodward short of numbers in selection lottery

Clive Woodward's nightmare scenario of having no players to select may still be some way off, but the shortage of English-qualified talent is certainly giving him a restless night or two. Chris Hewett hears the national coach raise serious concerns over the foreign takeover of club rugby.

tellect behind New Zealand's awesome reserves of All Black muscle, thinks England have pulled a fast one by effectively fielding three Test secondstrings against his tourists in as many weeks. He should worry. As Clive Woodward, his red rose counterpart admitted yesterday, his strategy has little to do with selectorial chicanery and everything to do with a limited range of choices.

Hart would have had few grounds for complaint had Woodward thrown tour protocol out of the window and

perienced "one of my hairiest

rides behind the wheel", his

crew also having to clear lumps

bridge's third-placed Toshiba

was injured when a turning

block, controlling the topmast

backstay, exploded. Australian

David Blanchfield suffered

bruising and is confined below.

was easing EF Language into

a more comfortable lead over

Lawrie Smith in Britain's Silk

Fourth-placed Paul Cayard

A crewman on Paul Stand-

of seaweed from the keel.

So John Hart, the guiding in- simply decided to play his best 15 at every available opportunity, after all, both English and Lions tour parties have been forced to accept more than their fair share of loaded New Zealand itineraries down the years. But Woodward does not accept that he is taking liberties. Far from it.

"I hear what John is saying and I sympathise with him to a large extent but we're doing it this way for all the right reasons," said the coach as he prepared to watch an Emerging England line-up featuring 12 full internationals take on

the All Black "dirt-trackers" at Huddersfield last night. "I believe we are facing an extremely serious situation here inasmuch as we simply don't have sufficient numbers of players to choose from. "England have two full Tests

and three other matches against the All Blacks and there is no way on earth that we can put out 60-plus players good enough to compete with what is almost certainly one of the greatest New Zealand sides ever to come here.

"There are only about 70 English-qualified players performing regularly in the top flight of the Premiership and of those, you can discount 20 or 30 as being well short of the standard required for these fixtures.

"Any game against the All Blacks should be a highlight of a player's career and I wouldn't dream of giving away such an honour cheaply. Besides, the All Blacks want a game. The only way we can give them a game under the present situation, which is none too healthy, is to follow the road we've chosen."

Woodward wants Cliff Brittle and Fran Cotton, chairman and vice-chairman

v Conwy; Inter Cable-Tel v Ceerswis; Porth-madog v Bengor. PONTRIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Brm-inchem v Menchester Utd (7:5) (Higdrestord

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Birmingham v Manchester Urd (7:2) (Hednester Urd (7:2) (Hednester Rown FG); Leadus v Derby (70); (Halitax Town FG); Notim Forest v Biachburn (70); Preston v Sheft Wed (7/8, Prest Division: Grimsby v Wolverhampton (7/2); Man City v Bolton (7/2) (Matchem FC); Otheren v Sunderham (7/2); Stelytridge Cellici; Port Vale v Coverny (7/2); West Brom v Huddensfield (7/2) (Helseower Town FG), Second Division: Blechood v Vork (7/2); Braciford v Simewathury (7/2); Lincoln v Burntey (7/2); Rochdelle v Stochport (7/2); Potherham v Bernstey (7/2); Westham v Carlais (7/2), Third Division: Chesterfield v Wogen (7/2); Lacque Cup Group sho: Scar-

respectively of English rugby's have to look at how they do management board, to meet with the senior clubs and thrash out some sort of solution to the "import dividend" - a dividend that appears to be costing the national team an arm and a leg. The coach was doubly aghast to discover that some clubs had refused to release under-21

Zealand counterparts. "We couldn't even organise something as straightforward as that without confrontation," he said, wearily. "If we want to be as good as New Zealand, we

matches against their New

on it. They make the Ali Blacks their absolute priority and they have put structures in place that allow players to perform at their best. I take my hat off to their administrators. They've got professionalism right." The squad, all of whom came through last weekend's players for representative

things off the field, as well as

the side to face that game with

a knee injury picked up against

A scan of the damaged knee

which forced him to leave the

field has revealed ligament

will be out of action for at least

draw with Australia without undue fitness alarms, trained yesterday under the eagle eye of Phil Larder, a new recruit from the ultra-professional world of rugby league. A coach with Widnes, Keighley, Sheffield

Eagles, England and Great Britain, the 52-year-old former centre will concentrate on skill development over the next fortnight of Test preparation.

"I believe the two codes should continue to go their own ways but they overlap in certain areas," Larder said. "We have a common enemy in New Zealand and Australia and if we can pool our resources, we can take reach the pinnacle in both union and league."

Always assuming, of course, that he finds a couple of English-qualified union players to work with.

SAILING

Hunted Krantz escapes

The big Southern Ocean winds, which for 36 hours had helped the chasing pack, yesterday returned to the leading trio, helping to establish three clear groups of three on the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race from Cape Town to Fremantle.

Gunnar Krantz, on Swedish Match, reported gales, a ripped spinnaker and high speeds as he maintained a margin of more than 320 miles over the secondplaced Knut Frostad in Innovation Kvaerner.

A relieved Krantz had felt like "a hunted animal" as the boats in fourth to ninth places made ground on his boat, which had been slowed by lighter winds near the Kerguelen Islands.

Swedish Match is now on the run again, averaging 19 knots in 40-knot winds, and Krantz expects to be in Fremantle next Monday.

Frostad, meanwhile, had ex-

Football

Cheisea v Southsmpton (7.45) West Ham v Weiseli (7.45) SECOND ROUND Pemborough v Hereford (7.45) ... BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

V Ashton Utd. Challenge Cup Secont round: Bradford Park Are V Fiddley Athletic Uniting First Division Cup First round: White by Town v Whitey Bay. DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division

FA Carling Premiership

Cut, while his all-women counterparts on EF Education were just, but only just, holding off Grant Dalton in Merit Cup. Grant Dalton in Mern Cup.
WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE
(second leg. 4,600 miles, Cape Town to
Fremantie): Latest positions: 1 Swedsh
Match (Swe) G Krantz 1718 miles to finish;
2 Imnovelion Kvermer (Nor) K Frostad 328
miles behind; 3 Toshiba (US) P Standbridge
485; 4 EF Lagguage (Swe) P Cayard 843;
5 Sik Cut (329) L Smith 994; 6 Chessis Racing (US) M Flacter 706; 7 EF Education
(Swe) C Guillou 808; 8 Mers Cup (Moneo) G Dalton 871; 9 Brunel Sunergy (Neth)
H Bouscholte 881. 9 Bury v Sunderl

Stuart Alexander

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated COCA-COLA CUP FOURTH ROUND Cettic v Ran

UNBOOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Gens-borough v Accrington Stanley, Winsford Utd v Bember Bridge. First Division: Fersley Callo

1 Aston Villa v Everton 2 Blackburn v Cheises 3 Derby v Coventry 4 Leicester v Bolton 5 Liverpool v Barnsley ...

Nationwide League First Division 9 Bury v Sunderland
18 Crowe v Stockport
11 Manchester City v Bradford
12 Norwich City v Oxford
13 Nottingham Forest v Charlion
14 Port Vale v Shaffield United UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTRIS LEAGUE

NORTHERN COUNTRES EAST League Pre-mier Division: Sheffeld v Arnold Town. NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Di-vision: St Helens Town y Newcastle Town JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Aerostruc ELYS V ROTTISSY TOWA.
PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND
LEAGUE: Frasecturgh v Eigh City.

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POLS FORECAST 16 CPR v Hudderstield 17 Reading v loswich 18 Swindon v Middlesbrough

19 Tranmere v Stoke *Poots panel will adjudicate Playing Sunday: West Brom v Brimingham. Second Division 25 MEWall v Chesterfield 26 Northampton v Watford 27 Okthern v Brentford 28 Southern v Brestor Rovers 29 Wigger v Preston

Third Division

Leyton Orient v Notts County 39 Peterborouch v Mensfield Also playing (not on coupons): Scarbor-ough v Rotherham, Swanses v Chester, Torquay v Scurifforms Bell's Scottish League

Playing Sunday: Hearts v Kirnemock. First Division

Premier Division 40 Cetto v Dundee United.

Rugby Union REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Royal New Hampshite (at US Portsmouth, 70); Surrey Sussex Presidents XV (at Innber Court, 730; CHELTENHAM AND GLOUESTER COURT (730) AND USE OF COURT (730) AND

Baskethail SAINSBURRY'S CLASSIC COLA Me tional Cup Quarter-finals: Shelfield v ter (7:30); Thames Valley v Greater Laspards (8:0). ice hockey EXPRESS CUP: Nottingham Ponthers v Ay Scottish Eagles (7:30). Other sports

Second Division

BILLIARDS: UK Championship (Preston) CYCLING: Ghent sto-day race. SNOOKER: UK Championship (Preston).

Third Division: Albion v Cowdenbeath, Ar-broath v Alloa, East String v Berwick, Queen's Park v Dumbarton, Rose County v Four draws: Blackburn v Chelsee, Swindon

Lumentaris y Aberdeen.
Five aways: Menchester United, Watford,
Candiff, Rengers, St Mirren.
Ten homes: Liverpool, Newcastle, Notfinghem Forest, Renmere Rovers, Bristol City,
Deterforunt College St International

CRICKET

Saeed prospers for Pakistan

West Indies 151 Pakistan 246-5

A 133-run second-wicket partnership between Saeed Anwer and Ijaz Ahmed helped put Pakistan in a strong position at the end of the second day of the first Test against the West Indies in Peshawar yesterday.

Both batsmen made 65 in their 129-minute stand as Pakistan progressed to 246 for 5 a first-innings lead of 95. Resuming at 14 for 1, Pakistan added 38 in the first hour with the left-hander Saeed playing with supreme confidence.

Later Wasim Akram failed to make the 45 runs he needed to join the illustrious band of all-rounders - Kapil Dev, Ian Botham, Richard Hadlee and Imran Khan - who have scored over 2,000 runs and taken 300 wickets when he was stumped off Carl Hooper for five.

Moin Khan (36) and Azhar Mahmood (14) had put on 39 runs for the sixth wicket when bad light stopped play just 1.3

overs before the close. Wasim Akram is to make a flying visit to England next week in between the first and second Tests against the West Indies to have a routine checkup on his shoulder, an injury that kept him out of the game for nearly eight months.

(Second day; Wast Indies won toes) WEST DIDIES First Indings - 161 (Mushtaq Armed 5-35.

PARISTAN - First Innings
(Ownight 14 for 1)
Saeed Armar c Williams b Hooper...
Assers Solinal c Lars b Waleh...

Jaz Ahmed c Hooper b Bishop

fauthermed Wasin b Walsh
hiszmanut Hag naired but

Moin Khan not out

Michin Khan not out in Akram st Williams b Hooper Azhar Mahmood not oue... Extras (fb 3, w2, nn 11)

To bet: Arshed Khen, Shahid Nezir, Mushted Bowling: Ambrose 173-3-58-0; Welsh 16-5-30-2; Bishop 16-4-44-1; Simmons 1-0-4-0; Lawis 19-5-70-0; Hooper 17-6-37-2. Umpires: D Shephard (Engl; Said Shah (Pak). TV replay umpire: Jeved Akhtar (Pak). Match referes: Raman Subba Row (Eng).

McStay believes Celtic can bounce back

The former Celtic midfielder for them to be bidding for the Paul McStay believes the Scot-title but it's not just about tish title race could be the closest run in years. Hearts lead the way at the moment, with Rangers, Celtic and Dundee United in the chasing pack

The Old Firm come together at Parkhead tonight in the second round of their fourmatch league programme with

Celtic eager to bounce back. They followed up their defeat at Ibrox 10 days ago by losing at home to Motherwell on Saturday, raising doubts about their ability to sustain a championship challenge.

But McStay, forced to quit the game last season at 32 because of an ankle injury, said: "I think there is definitely enough quality in the Celtic side

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Dixon wary of Wallaby backlash

Rangers and Celtic this season. Hearts are leading the way at the moment, and Dundee United are flying.

"I don't think it will just be a two-horse race at the end, and it could be one of the hardest titles to win in recent years."

Looking to tonight's game he said: "Celtic have had a wee hiccup, that's all. Ibrox is a daunting place to visit, and that game was maybe a learning process for some of the

"These games are always a battle and sometimes faster than you are used to. They have a great chance of bouncing back, and having the home support behind them should be a big help."

Celtic's central defender Marc Rieper certainly remains full of optimism. "We didn't do ourselves justice in the first game against Rangers," he

"Now we need to have the supporters behind us and give them what they deserve. We are very focused on what we need to achieve.

The players are all fired up, and we know if we keep trying to break Rangers down we'll get the support." Manchester United aim to

make shares in the club available to more people in a proposal to go before Thursday's annual meeting at Old Trafford.

Shareholders will be asked to approve a proposal to issue three shares for every one held as the club increase their share capital by 337.5 per cent to presence on the Stock Market. £35million. A flotation between now

This will create 270m ordinary shares and the move will see a drop in price for each individual share, although the overall value of an investment will not be affected.

It is the second time United have increased the number of shares in the club since their flotation in 1991.

A supporter who invested the minimum £192.50 in 50 shares in 1991 had their holding increased to 250 in December 1994 and at today's price that is worth £1,606,25, a growth of more than 800 per cent.

Coventry City yesterday announced that they intend to fund a proposed £80m stadium and entertainment centre by joining the growing football

and the millennium is planned to help meet the costs of the new 45,000-seater stadium, which will be based at a former gasworks at Foleshill and should be operating by the start of the 2001-2 season.

Preliminary talks have already taken place with financial advisors and the club's chairman, Bryan Richardson, said: "I would imagine we would float in two or three years' time, a year before the stadium opens.

"Our view is that the future of such a big development will require a more sustained form of funding than just football income.

Plans for the Foleshill site. which is close to the M6, M1 and M40, have already been Council, but it is likely the development will be the subject of a public inquiry.

The club have played at their 23,500-capacity Highfield Road ground in the city centre for more than 100 years, but Richardson claims supporters are overwhelmingly in favour of the scheme for a new stadium, which he insists would not be endangered if the club were to lose their place in the Premiership.

The stadium will feature a retractable roof, while the centre will include two hotels, restaurants and a retail park.

"It will be more than possible to play Liverpool in the afternoon and see Tina Turner perform a couple of hours later," Richardson said.

win grant freedom submitted to Coventry City

Dave Moorcroft, the figurehead of British athletics, will learn in London today whether his plans to secure the future of the sport have been approved. Moorcroft, appointed chief

Elite competitors

ATHLETICS

executive of the British Athletic Federation shortly before its financial collapse last month, hopes to form a small project team to establish a new structure for athletics in this country.

Funding for the enterprise, which would involve liaising widely with other governing bodies and influential individuals, would come from the UK Sports Council.

While the BAF may be in the hands of the administrators, the sport is continuing to experience the financial benefits of National Lottery funding.

Fifteen of Britain's élite athletes have been awarded an allowance of £10,000 a year to assist their personal coaches as they work towards the 2000 Olympics. The money from Performance Athlete Services -

the body set up in June to implement the Lottery's World Class Performance programme will be used at the discretion of competitors such as Jonathan Edwards, Steve Backley and Colin Jackson.

The athletes were selected as Britain's leading medal prospects for Sydney by the PAS board and the technical directors of the BAF.

"Recognising that one of the major difficulties facing the personal coaches of Britain's best athletes is the limited time they are able to spend together, we decided to provide support in a tangible way," said Moorcroft, who is on the PAS board.

Other athletes to benefit will be Jamie Baulch, Allison Curbishley, Ashia Hansen, Mick Hill, Kelly Holmes, Tony Jarrett, Denise Lewis, Richard Nerurkar, Paula Radcliffe. Mark Richardson, Steve Smith and Iwan Thomas.

- Mike Rowbottom

MOTOR RACING

Senna ruling due next month

The verdict on the six Formula One figures accused of the manslaughter of Ayrton Senna will be delivered in a month's time. Antonio Costanzo, the Italian magistrate, will give his ruling on the death of Senna around 15 to 17 December, it emerged yesterday as the trial continued in Imola.

Frank Williams. the Williams team owner, its technical director, Patrick Head, the Formula One designer Adrian Newey, and three race officials all face manslaughter charges after Senna's fatal crash at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix.

The trial resumed with the summing-up of the last of the defence cases, put by Oreste

Dominioni, who is representing Williams and Head.

The state prosecutor. Maurizio Passarini, recommended earlier this month that Williams and the three race officials be cleared of the charges, but called for one-year suspended jail sentences against Head and Newey.

Dominioni launched a fivehour attack on the prosecution case, claiming that Passarini had been let down by his technical advisers, who had provided him with assumptions and not facts. "His reconstruction of the accident which cost Ayrton Senna his life has no basis in proof, is unfounded and those accused must be cleared." Dominioni told the court.

BASKETBALL

Lloyd's untimely injury

weeks after the American damaged his ankle in Sunday's 93-83 defeat at Greater London Leopards.

Lloyd's coach, Mike Burton, was last night waiting on the results of an X-ray to determine whether Lloyd had suffered a hairline fracture, which would rule out the 18 points-a-game guard from the most demanding period so far on Chester's schedule

Chester face the unbeaten Birmingham Bullets and the leaders, London Towers, in the League and must play four League Trophy group games as they try to reach the last eight.

Chester Jets' Brian Lloyd could The Jets lost last season's final be out of action for up to six in their first appearance in a major tournament.

Thames Valley Tigers, who play Leopards in tonight's Sainsbury's Classic Cola National Cup quarter-final at Bracknell, also wait on the fitness of their centre Jason Siemon. He missed Saturday's 145-144 quadruple overtime League win against Derby Storm after also injuring an ankle.

In tonight's other quarterfinal, Leicester Riders face Sheffield Sharks at Ponds Forge just four days after beating them 103-86 in an explosive League Trophy group game at Granby Halls.

- Richard Taylor

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GÖLF

Montgomerie relives Ryder memory

Colin Montgomerie returns to the scene of one of the most amazing days of his career this week when he plays for Scotland in the World Cup of Golf at Kiawah Island in South Carolina.

It was here that Montgomerie, winner of the Hassan Trophy in Morocco on Sunday. made his debut in the 1991 Ryder Cup, a match remembered most for the six-foot putt which Bemhard Langer missed to give America victory.

Earlier on the same day, Montgomerie faced Mark Calcavecchia and discovered what pressure can do to someone. Calcavecchia was five up at the turn and still four ahead with four to play, but then totally went to pieces to allow Montgomeric a half.

I don't think I'll ever come across what happened that day again," the Scot, Europe's leading money-winner for the last five seasons, said.

Montgomene parmers Raymond Russell, while England have Mark James and Paul Broadhurst. Wales have Ian Woosnam and Phillip Price and Ireland's two are Padraig Harrington and Paul McGinley. greater things," Puig said.

BOXING

AFC East division with a 30-13 victory on Monday night

Promoter may sue council

The promoter Frank Maloney has threatened to take Bury Council to court over its treatment of the reigning British and Commonwealth flyweight champion, Adey Lewis.

Lewis challenges the Frenchman David Guerault for the European title at Bowlers Leisure Complex in Trafford Park, near Manchester, on Saturday, a fight the Bury man wanted to happen in his home town.

But the council voted earlier this year to ban profession-

al boxing from any of its venues, court.

Puig pulls the plug on racing

Bad results and injury have persuaded the 30-year-oldgrand prix rider Alberto Puig to retire from professional

Puig, who began considering leaving the sport at the last world championship round in Australia, said yesterday in his native city of Barcelona in north-eastern Spain that retiring is the solution that

know that if I hadn't been injured I would have achieved

Maloney, joint promoter of this weekend's show, said: "After the fight I will be having discussions with Adey's manager. Jack Doughty, in order to set up a promotional deal which will hopefully lead to a world title shot next year.

while still allowing amateur

and kick boxing.

"We then plan to stage the contest in Bury and next week will set up another press conference in order to sort out the matter with the council. If necessary we will take them to

MOTORCYCLING

However a string of injuries, Mans he crashed into a straw

bale at 186mph and badly dambest suits him. "I feel all right, because I

Puig became the first Spanish rider to win a 500cc race in Spain, with victory in the 1995 Spanish Grand Prix in the southern city of Jerez.

particularly a serious accident on the Le Mans circuit in 1995, encouraged Puig to quit professional motorcycling. In the training session in Le

aged his leg. Pnig said that he would maintain links to the motorcycling world.

TENNIS

Miami Dolphins' Ed Perry (left) scores a touchdown despite the attempted tackle of Buffalo Bills' Bryce Paup as the Dolphins joined the New York Jets at the top of the

Bates selects best juniors for Florida

Jeremy Bates, the former British No 1, has selected 21 of the country's leading juniors from the Rover Scheme for a special two-week training camp at Delray Beach in Florida from 24 November to 5 December.

The camp has been organised to prepare the players for a series of Florida-based events, culminating at the Orange Bowl tournament, the unofficial world junior championships, to be staged at Flamingo Park, Miami Beach, from 21 to 28 December:

TODAY'S NUMBER

81,054

The number of tickets sold for the Millen derby between Milan and internazionale at the San Siro Stadium on Saturday. This beats the record of 80,802, set in 1991. The last few tickets were snapped up within ministes on Monday.

SPORTING DIGEST

American football

The Miami Dolphins joined the New York Jets on top of the AFC East division with a 30-13 win over the Buffalo Billis on Monday. They now have a 7-4 record while the Bills felf to 5-6. NFL: Miami 30 Buttalo 13.

Worthing have appointed Neil McEl-duff as their head coach in succes-sion to Chris Jones, who is leaving by mutual consent.

NBA: Atlanta 83 LA Clippers 83; New Jersey 77 Cleveland 72; Phoents 96; Fouston 94; Seattle 119 Mileaules 99; LA Leisers 12! Vancouver 98; Portland 120 Dellas 75.

BOXING
MONDAY'S LATE RESULT'S: England v
USA Amateur lebernational (Hilton Hobe),
London) (England first): Light flyweight:
I Nape bt K Norman pts. Featherweight: S
Bell bt R Ferrer pts. Light middleweight:
C Sessey bt T Wit (rat first); Light middleweight: M Serier lost to N Myers, pts.
Middleweight: J Pearca bt R Roper, pts.
Light heavyweight: W Krence lost to R
Sevene pts. Heavyweight: W Sarina bt T
Trujillo raf first. England 5 USA 2.
Position: England 3 USA 1.

Surrey are to stage two AXA Life beague day-night matches under floodights on Monday, 3 August against Sussax and two days later against Derbyshire.

Menchester City have been granted a work permit for the Georgian de-fender, Murtaz Shalia, and now await international clearance. Shells was recommended to the club by Georgi Kinkladze, an international team-mate of the \$400,000 signing from the Russ-ian side Alania Vladikavkaz, City, one point off the floot of the First Division. hope to the up the deal in time for Braci-ford's visit on Saturday.

Alan Curbishley has signed a new, exended contract at Charlton Athletic. Curbishley had been linked with managerial vacancies at Sheffield Wednesday and Queen's Park The Barnsley manager, Danny Wilson, plans to sign the Swedish centre-back

Peter Markstadt today and give him a debut against Liverpool on Satur-day. The 25-year-old, who plays for Vasteras, has impressed Wilson in two trial games and he is close to tying up a £400,000 deal.

up a 2400,000 deal.

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Spaiding Cup second round: Kidderminster 0 Heorestord 2 (Francis 50, Hermings pen 60). Ryman League First Division: Romford v Worthing (Postponed). Guardian Insurance Cup Second round replay: Purfleet. 1 Bilericay Town 2 (acts across 90 min 7-1). Dr Marban's League Southern Division: Cheimsford City 5 Test Town 0. Screwifts. Direct League Premier Division: Ryman Town 1 Chipperhain Town 1 Winstoniesed Kant League First Division: Erith Town 1 Shappey Utd 4. Pontins League Premier Division: Stoke 1 Aston Villa 0 (Newcestle Town FC). First Division: Leicester 0 Middestrough 1. Awon Insurance Combina-

PGA GRAND SLAM (Kausi, Hawaii) First-round scores: 88 T Woods (US); 88 E Els (SA); 71 D Love (US); 77 J Leonard (US).

Cup holders Hightown have been favoured by another home tie against canterbury, second in the First Division, in the fourth round of the EHA Cup crawn vesterday. At least two non-National League clubs are guaranteed a place in the next round. WOMEN'S CUP Fourth round draw (Thes to be played on Suaday, 30 Nov): Bracinel v Epsora: Bradlord Swithenbank v Slough; Chetratizad Highway v Southempton; Oldsbury Chetration Highway v Southempton; Dicebury Greys v Trojans; Doncaster v Bluetsurs; Eating v Leicester; Easter v Aldridge; Harleston Magpies v Derehen; Hightown v Centerbury; Loughborough Students v Crimeon Remblens; Olton Terraquest v Taurion viole; Powerp v Chramoot, Sunbury v Welton; Sutton Colfield v Swindon; Whitney Bay v Ciffron Scottish Life; Wolding Swifts unwenter of the Colfield v Swindon; Whitney Bay v Ciffron Scottish Life; Wolding Swifts unwenter of the Colfield Swindon; Whitney Bay v Ciffron Scottish Life; Wolding Swifts unwenter of the Colfield Swindon; Whitney Bay v Ciffron Scottish Life; Wolding Swifts unwenter of the Colfield Swindon; Whitney Bay v Ciffron Scottish Life; Wolding Swifts unwenter of the Colfield Swifts unwenter of the Colfie

Scotland's women will play Australia, the Olympic champions, in the open-ing game of next year's World Cup in Utrecht on 20 May. England follow against India. Englands men start their campaign the following day against Spain, the Olympic silver medalists.

Ice hockey

ATLANTIC DIVISION New Jersey Washington NY Islanders

WESTERN CONFERENCE .. 15 5 2 32 72 47 PACIFIC DIVISION

Rugby Union Worcester have sold more than 1000 tickets for their Tetley's Bitter Cup tourth-round game against Bristol on 4 January. The National League One club are awaiting confirmation of a 4,000 capacity at their Stoways ground and will erect temporary stands to cope with demand.

Snooker LIVERPOOL VICTORIA UK CHAMPI-

WOMEN'S OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP (Hun-tord, Ct): Semi-finale: S Fitz-Gerald (Aue) bt C Nitch (SA) 9-3 9-2 9-7; C Jeckman

KYUSHBI GRAND TOURNAMENT (Fulcus-las, Japan) 10th day (of 15): Kyokutanho (Juryo) (won 6, lost 5) bt Konshild (6-5) Aogyana 6-4) bt Kishimsumi (2-5): Kraso (6-5) bt Yamato (4-5): Minatoluji (2-5): Tarzo (6-5) bt Yamato (4-5): Minatoluji (5-5) bt Kotonowa-los (6-6): Kyokushuzu (5-5) bt Asanowaka bi Yamaio (4-9); Kinetotij (5-5) bi Kotonoval-(6-9); Kyokushuzan (5-5) bi Akanowaka (6-9); Gamyu (5-5) bi Akinoshu (5-5); Ma-soyama (6-2) bi Kotoryu (8-4); Kinjaschidoki (4-6) bi Kotoriazuma (4-6); Higenoumi (5-5) bi Shikishima (5-5); Kotonishidi (6-4) bi Wakanojo (2-8); Hamanoshima (3-7) bi Tumekosuga (4-6); Akinoshima (5-5) bi Tumekosuga (4-6); Akinoshima (5-5) bi Tumekosuga (4-6); Akinoshima (3-7) bi Taka-toriki (2-6); Wakanohama (6-4) bi Tochizowaka (3-7); Musashimaru (9-1) bi Kalo (5-5); Takanohana (8-1) bi Chiyotaka (5-5).

Pete Sampras, the world No 1, will team up with Michael Chang, Todd Martin and Alex O'Brien to spearhead the United States' challenge to regain the Davis Cup when they face Sweden in the final later this month. Sweden den, five times winners and runners-up to France last year, have nominated the world No. 4. Jonas Bjorkman, Magnus Larsson, Thomas Enqvist and Nicklas Kutti to take on the Americans in Gothenburg from 26 to 30 November. Sweden and the United States have met nine times in the Davis Cup, with the States leading the series 7-2 and looking for a 32nd

CHASE CHAMPIONSHIPS (M Square Garden, NY) First round: M Perce (Fr) bt S Appelmane (Bel) 6-3 6-4; N Tauzi-at (Fr) bt A Coetzer (SA) 6-3 6-3; I Spirlee (Rom) bt S Testud (Rt) 6-3 5-7 6-4.

VOLVO WOMEN'S OPEN (Pattaya, Thai) VOLYO WOMEN'S OPEN (Pattaya, Thai)
First round: R Dragomir (Rom) bt L Horn
(SA) 6-2 5-7 6-4; L Golarsa; (f) to Y Yoshida (Japan) 6-2 6-3; C Morariu (US) bt K
Kunce (Aus) 6-1 6-2; H Nagyova (Siovak)
bt M Endo (Japan) 1-8 6-4 6-2; Wang ShiTing (Raj) bt M Saeia (Japan) 6-1 8-2; S Noorlander (Neth) bt T Pantovav (Rus) 6-3 6-3;
C Gristea (Rom) bt Cho Yoon Jeong (S Kor)
6-3 6-3; B Sangasam (Thai) bt M Nooi (Thai)
6-1 7-6; D Van Roost (Bel) bt N Van Lottum
(Rt) 6-4 6-0.

Volleybali

WORLD GRAND CHAMPIONS CUP (HI-

TENNIS

FOOTBALL

Francis' future in balance as Spurs hire Swiss coach

Tottenham Hotspur appear to have found a replacement for their underachieving manager, Gerry Francis.

Christian Gross, a 43year-old Swiss, is expected to take over next Monday as Spurs follow their London rivals Arsenal and Chelsea in going Continental. Nick Duxbury reports.

It is Gerry Francis' birthday two weeks on Saturday, but it is unlikely there will be much celebrating when it comes to blowing out the 46 candles on his cake.

By then, Christian Gross, the coach of Zurich Grasshopper, will be settled in nicely at Tottenham Hotspur if reports coming from Switzerland yesterday are to be believed. The Grasshoppers president, Romano Spadaro, let it be known that the 43-year-old Gross will be ensconced at White Hart Lane on Monday, with his

Grasshopper assistant, Fritz recently admitted that the £6m Schmid, also there as his right-

It is not clear whether Francis - Tottenham's 13th manager since the war and the fifth in the last 10 years - will be leaving, or moving upstairs. He has come under extreme pressure as his team languish 16th in the Premiership and it would be surprising if he remained at Spurs in any capacity.

Francis, who took over Ossie Ardiles in November 1994, has been thwarted by injuries and what some fans had deemed to be expensive but ultimately disappointing signings. The Tottenham chairman, Alan Sugar,



Gross: Zurich coach

United withdraw Salas offer

Manchester United are pulling out of their bid for the Chilean international Marcelo Salas, because his club will not reduce their £12m valuation.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, wants the River Plate striker, but the Argentinian club have refused to come down on their asking price. River Plate are willing to sell, but it is all a question of timing. The club's president is up for reelection at the beginning of next month and stands little chance of success if he sells Salas now.

The Argentinians are not prepared to haggle as they feel

No. 3460. Wednesday 19 November

1 Damage to church is rare

10 Late gathering in the Slav

five-star resort (7,8)

12 Snags when mystical sym-

bols lose power? (9)

13 These days, simply accli-

novel to be inadequate

16 Engraver dips top of chis- 3

18 Pinkie more elegant when 5

curled around end of

mug? (6)
21 Soothing effect of lemon tile mosaic (9)

matize (6) 15 Agent holds Kipling's

el in solvent (6)

strapped (4.2)

(6) 4 Grim, at university, to be 23

they will find another buyer for Salas now or at the World Cup finals. For United's part, the pic board is unlikely to grant Ferguson the full £12m.

River Plate will want to be well compensated for the loss of Salas and reportedly value him at £18m. As United weigh up their options, they are aware other footballing giants such as Barcelona and Milan could also make an attractive offer.

Salas has achieved hero status in Chile since he broke into the national team two

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

switches Anglo-French ar-

Top fuzz causing blotches in faces to break out?

24 Gems for investors (6)

in new isms? (6)

vays (3-12)

Ear care (9)

race section (5)

Work of quality con-

trollers to help the air-

Take for a ride in cycle-

How we are evolving,

happening to band to-gether? (15) European buff (6)

DOWN

Division of church leaders 17

ticles (5)

(5,10)

11 Wanting to be seen near the batsman (5)

25 Advocate keeping wicket in Orpington, say? (6)

Les Ferdinand had been a purchase born out of panic rather than business sense.

Spadaro said that Gross, who was thought to be joining a German club, had signed a contract with the job title of head coach. His brief from Sugar will be simple - to bring the championship to White Hart Lane for the first time since Bill Nicholson in 1961.

Gross, who will become the first Swiss to coach in Britain, will find a friendly face on his arrival in the form of the former Grasshoppers defender Ramon Vega. Grasshopper coach since 1993, Gross has led the club to two successive championships, 1995 and 1996, and the 1994 Swiss Cup.

It was as ugly as they come, but Paul Bosveit's tackle will not result in any punishment even though millions of television viewers saw the Feyenoord player stamp his studs into Denis Irwin's knee.

If the Feyenoord-Manchester United Champions' League match had been under FA jurisdiction, Bosvelt's challenge would have landed him on a disciplinary charge even though the referee did not see the incident. The Dutch player, who described the tackle as "the biggest error of my career", escaped even a booking.

Too late for Irwin, who will be out at least until Christmas with ligament damage. Uefa, the governing body of European football, are now considering following the FA's lead in allowing the use of television evidence.

"It is not our policy to use

television evidence and we are in line with Fifa [the game's world governing body] on that," a Uefa spokeswoman, said. "We've never used it before, but

that could change and at the moment it is under discus-

8 Architect showing the

Wight, once? (6)

profitable (9)

talisman (6)

way in the city (6) Civets roaming the Isle of

14 Injured hen, full up. is not

Putting up drink ap-

southern Africa (6)

19 Offers, say, the old king-

dom? (6)
20 One's unusually in credit

22 Beast of Burden, a

up (5)

as user of blue-pencil (6)

Broadway production put

18 Made of iron, this new

proved for a native of

Mary Pierce, of France, plays a backhand during her 6-3, 6-4 victory against Belgium's Sabine Appelmans in the first round of the season.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan plan to ground-share with football neighbours Athletic by year 2000

new ground they will share with their neighbours, Wigan Athletic, by the turn of Millennium. The club has confirmed that it will be moving in with the football team at the new 25,000capacity stadium in the town in time for the start of the 2000

season. Mike Nolan, the Wigan chairman, said yesterday that an alternative suggestion of playing on a different site in the town earmarked by the previous board, which was ousted last

Wigan plan to be playing in the month, was "all smoke and Robbie McCormack. "He has agreed terms and it just a matmirrors".

The Robin Park plan was "the only viable one," he said, allowing Wigan to remain at their Central Park home for another two years before the bulldozers move in to build a supermarket.

ending Chase Championships in Madison Square Garden in New York

On the playing front, Wigan are close to signing the Hunter Mariners' captain and hooker,

Nolan said. McCormack will join the

ter of completing the signing,"

London Broncos prop, Tony Mestroy, in a remodelled pack for next season, although Wigan have cooled on the deal to sign the New Zealand forward Mark Horo. Another New Zealander, the former All Black, John

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Timu, is considering rival offers from Wigan and London. replace any of the four back-Meanwhile, the prop forroom staff made redundant last

ward Lee Hansen, who Wigan signed from Widnes last season. is available if the right bid is forthcoming. It will not be decided which other players can go until their new coach, John Monie, runs a rule over the playing staff when he returns from Australia in December.

Leeds, who are hoping to announce their new coach this week, have restructured the club by splitting rugby and non-rugby affairs into two sections.

Wigan are not proposing to

course in wich

77 %

Contract of the second

i Buttana

Independent

Writer Wins

top award

التها New York

(parties of the second

Maria S. C. S.

(Reserved)

Report, page 30; Photograph: Starr Honda/AFP

• Tommy Martyn, the man of the match in the first Test at Wembley, has agreed a new three-year deal with Challenge Cup holders St Helens. Dave Hoofield

